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Appeal Court rejects 15-year term Howard was 'unfair' to Bulger killers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD suffered his twelfth defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that he had acted unfairly in setting a minimum 15-year sentence on the two boys who murdered James Bulger.



Howard: "We will now appeal to Lords"

The Home Secretary was criticised for taking a "perfunctory" approach to the case and told that he should not have heeded public petitions demanding that the two boys never be freed.

The procedures followed by Mr Howard in reaching his decision "were so seriously flawed and lacking in fairness and so open to criticism" that the tariff should be quashed, the judges said.

But they upheld the Home Secretary's right to treat young people convicted of murder in the same way as adults — although Lord Woolf disagreed with his fellow judges. He argued that detention at Her Majesty's pleasure was "different, separate and more merciful" than a life sentence, and called for a review of the administration of cases which would result in children being locked up for long periods.

Lawyers for the killers, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, said that they would pursue that point to the House of Lords.

Mr Howard also said that he intended to take the case to the highest court. "We won on the substantial question on which we lost in the court below. We have lost on one other point, and we will appeal that to the House of Lords," he said.

Thompson and Venables were aged ten when they abducted two-year-old James Bulger from a Liverpool shopping centre and murdered him on a railway line in February 1993.

They were convicted at Preston Crown Court and Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, ordered them to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

pleasure. He recommended a minimum eight-year tariff for punishment and deterrence, which was increased to ten by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth.

Mr Howard then increased it again to 15 years after receiving a petition signed by 250,000 people, 4,400 individual letters and 21,000 coupons from readers of *The Sun* backing the Bulger family's demand that the boys should never be released. He also received another petition signed by 6,000 people urging a minimum sentence of 25 years.

But in his first major ruling since becoming Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf said yesterday that the Home Secretary was wrong to take the petitions into account because it was impossible for Thompson and Venables to test or match them.

A court would regard it as quite improper for this type of material to be put before it, he said, and to run a campaign designed to increase the punishment in a particular case would amount to interference with the due administration of justice. "This being the position as to the courts, I find it difficult to see the justification for the Home Secretary taking a different view."

"I can only describe the approach in these cases as perfunctory and as falling far below the standards that a court would adopt if contemplating sentencing a child for a period of 15 years."

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morritt agreed that the tariff should be quashed — although they accepted that the Home Secretary had the right to raise the tariff recommended by the trial judge — and all three judges urged the Home Secretary to review the case and set another minimum term.

Lord Justice Morritt said that it could not be right that Mr Howard did not take into consideration material, including psychiatric and sentencing reports, which would have been available to a judge sentencing an offender to a determinate term a good deal shorter than the tariff he had in mind.

Mr Howard would now be able to reconsider the tariff in the light of all relevant information, which he should disclose to the boys' lawyers, the judge said.

The decision was greeted with anger, however, by Denise Bulger, the murdered boy's mother, who said it was disgusting that the court should tell Mr Howard to ignore the petition. "I think he did the right thing taking it into account," she said. "I hope he does not reconsider and sticks to the 15 years he set. They deserve a lot longer. They deserve life."

Conservative MPs, too, accused the judges of "setting themselves above the public" and of putting the interests of the criminal over those of the victim.

But Stephen Shaw of the Prison Reform Trust welcomed the ruling, saying: "A politician seeking re-election should play no part in deciding how long offenders spend in prison. Britain is a country ruled by law, not by tabloid newspapers."

Fears for Venables, page 2
Leading article, page 15



One face among thousands at a memorial service in the city's re-opened Centennial Park yesterday for victims of the Atlanta bombing. Report, page 10

Games plan that flopped

FROM JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE Government yesterday asked for an unprecedented meeting with the British Olympic Association over the lack of success at the games.

The dearth of success is particularly embarrassing for the Prime Minister because last year he had announced a plan, *Raising The Game*, to revitalise sport from school to international level.

Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, phoned Dick Palmer, the British Olympic Association secretary, to set up a debriefing session on the

team's return to London next week. In the first ten days of competition Britain won only one gold medal through Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the coxless pairs.

There are fears the haul here will be the worst since 1952, when only one gold and a total of 11 medals were won. Mr Palmer, who has attended all the summer and winter Olympics, said the real problem was the lack of money, compared to other countries, for preparation. "People can mean that other nations are

overtaking and I would agree. But look at the money they have invested in sport."

He cited the example of France, which has a similar population size, and has already secured 13 gold medals. Mr Palmer added: "I have a message for John Major but I think these games have already told him what it is. We need money."

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"This post strike is beginning to get me down"

THE Government is actively considering curbs on 24-hour strikes and imposing huge fines on unions that provoke disruptive disputes in the monopoly public services.

As more industrial unrest looms Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, yesterday gave the strongest indication yet that the Government is preparing to legislate after recent disruptions in the Post Office and London Underground.

His warning came as moves to settle the postal dispute over pay and working practices suffered a setback when union leaders rejected the deal reached last week. The decision could lead to the ending of the Post Office monopoly.

The 24-member executive of the Communication Workers' Union voted overwhelmingly to reject the agreement thrashed out with Post Office managers during 60 hours of talks at the conciliation service Acas.

The agreement, drafted by senior managers and CWU leaders after weeks of negotiations, was quashed by the executive because of objections to clauses in the deal, which offers pay and working conditions improvements, on teamworking and first-post delivery targets.

The Government is expected to suspend the Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters with a postage value of £1 and under.

Amid Labour claims that the Government is deliberately "hyping" industrial difficulties for political reasons, Mr Lang will spend much of the next few weeks reconsidering plans rejected in the past for ending strikes in the essential public services. Ministers

have not ruled out the introduction of legislation in the autumn for the last session of Parliament before the election if strike action increases over the next few months, although they concede that it is more likely that the plans will figure in the election manifesto.

Mr Lang is to look at plans for unions to lose their immunity against legal action if they organise strikes in the essential services. Under these, unions would face the threat of damages payments which could bankrupt them.

Plans for introducing much longer "cooling-off" periods before strike action is called, and forcing unions to reballoon their members more frequently if a dispute goes on for some time have been looked at both by the DTI and the Downing Street policy unit and will be studied by Mr Lang.

The idea of withdrawing immunity from unions that stage 24-hour strikes has

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USAir sues BA

The planned merger of many British Airways and American Airlines transatlantic operations was thrown into disarray when BA was sued by its American partner USAir.

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Stalker claim

A stalker probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was bludgeoned to death with her daughter on a country footpath, police have said.

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Resorts not to be missed — for noise or bad food

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are to be told the truth about what to expect at their chosen resort next year — a concept that has apparently never before occurred to tour operators.

Tens of thousands of British families who flock to the Costa Brava, for example, will be told in glossy brochures on travel agents' shelves tomorrow that "charm is not a word that springs to mind when talking about Lloret".

Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, made the ground-breaking decision to be honest about what to expect partly because it is convinced customers want it to and to comply in advance with ever-tougher European consumer legislation.

The hotels, many of which are criticised in the summer 1997 brochures, had not been told in advance of the plan to expose their shortcomings.

Descriptions of poor food and facilities are written by Thomson staff, but based upon the three million ques-

tionnaires filled in by their holidaymakers each year.

The brochures say that people "sniffy" about Benidorm on the Costa Blanca "have probably never been there". "The problem is they still think of it as a fishing village overrun by a scrum of hotels. Benidorm is now no more a fishing village than London's Docklands are docks."

Kuta in Bali is "all stirred up with swarms of motor-cycles that most of the young seem to rent." Turkey has grown so fast that "streets may not have pavements".

In the Dominican Republic "roads are dug up and then forgotten and the electricity supply is sometimes erratic".

The Playa de las Americas in Tenerife "jumps to music day and night as the young people who go there get a continuous fix of decibels".

Ibiza is "big and noisy and sometimes rowdy and night-life only stops at sunrise".

Food at the Hotel Zoraida

Garden in Roquetas de Mar on the Costa de Almeria "is not its best feature".

The Hotel Pueblo in Benidorm "is not the hotel to choose for a particularly quiet holiday".

Gourmets should avoid the Hotel Ambassador, also Benidorm, the food is disappointing at the Hotel Aquarium in Lloret de Mar, and guests at Sandals in Montego Bay should "be prepared for some aircraft noise".

Even attempts to be diplomatic have a certain barb. "The beach location more than makes up for any noise that may come from the nearby road and railway," they say of one Sri Lankan hotel.

"We have not taken legal advice to prepare ourselves in the event that any resort or hotel should sue us," said Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director.

"All we are doing is telling the truth... we have taken the views of the most important critics — our customers."

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Offer for doomed embryos 'immoral'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN OFFER by Italian doctors to buy 3,300 frozen human embryos due to be destroyed tomorrow has been rejected as immoral and illegal.

Peter Brinsden, director of Bourn Hall Clinic in Cambridgeshire, which may have to dispose of 1,000 of the 7,000 embryos it is storing, condemned the Italian request. "It is unethical and immoral to pass them on without the couples involved giving their consent," he said.

"How would people react if they found out two or three of their children were running around Italy in a few years time? The embryos are from couples who have lost touch with the clinic for whatever reasons and they must take some of the responsibility for the situation. It is not something we are looking forward to but we have no choice."

Bourn Hall Clinic is one of the test tube baby centres which is required by law to dispose of unclaimed embryos after the midnight expiry of a five-year deadline. An Italian

pro-life group has found 100 women, including two elderly nuns, willing to give birth to the embryos or adopt them. The Vatican has led condemnation of the mass destruction.

Claudio Giorlandino, medical director of Artemisia, a chain of Italian pre-natal clinics, said: "We'll give any technical and financial support so that they are not destroyed. I don't know how they can just switch off the machines lightly. It's a sin. It would be perpetrating thousands of abortions."

His organisation has offered to spend thousands of pounds transporting the embryos to Italy. "If we can save just one, it will be money well spent," he said.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority allows frozen embryos to be stored for only five years. They must then be destroyed unless the parents agree to an extension or let them be used for donation or research.

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Labour leader promotes MPs from modernising and traditionalist wings of party to key posts

Short criticises demotion as Blair rewards faithful



Hain: moves from Whips to new employment post

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

CLARE SHORT criticised Tony Blair yesterday for the way she had been demoted, as the Labour leader promoted some of his leading campaigning MPs.

Ms Short, moved from Shadow Transport Secretary to Overseas Development in last week's reshuffle, said bluntly that she did not like the way she had been treated. Asked whether she was hurt, she replied: "Of course, that is obvious."

She also suggested that Mr Blair was wrong to keep changing the transport spokesman job. "Transport is a mess. It has not been properly attended to. People who do it in Government and Opposition keep being changed. I did a lot

of work and was trying to get it sorted so I am a bit sad about that," she said.

But as a handful of Labour MPs received letters from Donald Dewar, the Shadow Chief Whip, rebuking them for disciplinary lapses over the Shadow Cabinet elections, Mr Blair moved to boost figures from both the traditionalist and modernising wings. Peter Hain, left-wing MP for Neath and long-time political campaigner, was moved from the Whips' Office to a new employment post where he will specialise in campaigning on job insecurity. The new chief employment spokesman is Ian McCartney, who will work for David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary. For the modernisers there was big promotion for Tessa Jowell,

who becomes deputy to Shadow Health Secretary, Chris Smith.

Her job as chief spokesman on women's issues goes to Janet Anderson. Henry McLeish, who was Harriet Harman's deputy when she was Shadow Health Secretary, moves with Ms Harman to become her deputy in her new role at Social Security. Another health spokesman, Alan Milburn, moves across to join Gordon Brown's Treasury team. Social security spokesman Keith Bradley switches to Transport.

Stephen Byers, already in the education and employment team, takes on responsibility for industrial relations and the social chapter while Doug Henderson remains in home affairs but with a special brief on devolution. Mr Byers was given the job of rebutting "false

accusations" about the social chapter by Government ministers and other Tory MPs. Mr Henderson will seek to spike Tory guns on devolution while another home affairs spokesman, Alan Michael, will campaign on crime and the voluntary sector.

Ms Short, in her first interview since her demotion, admitted she had no guarantee of a seat in the Cabinet if Labour won the general election.

"The Labour Party document position is that there will be a separate ministry for overseas development and it rather fudges whether it will be a secretary of state in the Cabinet or not," she told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"It is true that under the standing orders of the Labour Party I am entitled to a job in the Cabinet if we

win the election. We will have to see what happens." She refused to say whether she had threatened to resign over the move but stressed her commitment to her new portfolio.

"I am honoured to be doing it but I don't like the way it has come about," she said.

Asked about Ms Short's comments, John Prescott, the deputy leader, said: "Disappointment is the word that comes to my mind when all of us who have been top of the Shadow Cabinet tumble to the bottom."

He added: "She wants to get stuck into this very important job in the overseas area and dedicate her kind of enthusiasm and energy to it."

Letters, page 15



Jowell: makes big jump to become deputy at health

US partner sues BA over plans for merged operations

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

PLANS by British Airways and American Airlines to merge many of their transatlantic operations were upset last night when British Airways was unexpectedly sued by its partner USAir.

USAir claims that the plans breach its agreement with BA and break American competition laws.

The sudden development came hours after the arrangement between BA and American had cleared its first hurdle when the all-party House of Commons transport committee agreed it should not undergo scrutiny by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Both the European Commission and the Office of Fair Trading are also examining the proposals and the OFT is much more likely to refer them to the MMC.

While attention was fixed on the manoeuvrings in London, USAir chiefs were seething on the other side of the Atlantic and yesterday made their own move to have the new arrangement quashed.

Their action was welcomed by Virgin Atlantic chairman Richard Branson who opposes the planned link.

"Although the news has come as a surprise the logic of the argument that it is anti-competitive is not surprising. If BA's own partner thinks it is anti-competitive then every regulatory authority in both the US and Europe can only reach the same conclusion," said Mr Branson last night.

BA has a 24.6 per cent share in struggling USAir and a "code sharing" deal which enables American passengers to fly from any city served by USAir in the United States and travel to London on BA. Senior BA officials, who also sit on the board of USAir, had been hoping to convince their partners that the proposed alliance with American Airlines would bring everyone additional benefits.

But USAir yesterday filed an action against both carriers for "seeking to undermine USAir's competitive position and to limit overall competition in US-UK markets".

"Our action taken in response to the proposed British Airways-American Airlines alliance advances and underscores the 'absolute determination of USAir to become a viable competitor in

key US-UK markets and is in the best interests of USAir, its shareholders, employees and the travelling public," said Stephen Woolf, chairman and chief executive of USAir.

The partnership agreement between the two, he said, meant that they both had a responsibility to "complete and advance the alliance".

USAir said it had divested itself of its own valuable routes to London, redeployed aircraft and employees, altered schedules, invested in joint marketing initiatives and undertaken other efforts to further its alliance.

But, it claimed, BA "acting in concert with American Airlines, failed to act in good faith and breached its fiduciary duty to USAir as a joint venture partner."

Earlier the select committee said that the planned alliance with American would be beneficial and could pave the way for a more liberal air treaty between the USA and Britain. The committee said it believed the Government should consider lifting restrictions on US carriers' access to Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

The committee's report said: "This would allow the alliance to proceed and assuage some airlines' concerns about the dominance of the alliance at Heathrow."

The arrangement would give BA and American 80% of peak period slots and more than 60% of traffic between Britain and the US. But it said global alliances were now the norm and it would "not wish the UK to 'miss the boat' in these developments".

Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody said: "I believe that the alliance is a way of ensuring that the UK continues to be a major player in the air transport industry, incidentally protecting the thousands of British jobs involved."

British Airways said last night that USAir had not provided it with a copy of the complaint or discussed it before making the announcement.

"We are, however, confident that all our actions and agreements, including our proposed alliance with American Airlines, are consistent with our obligations to USAir."

Pennington, page 25



Thompson, left, and Venables, who will both be 14 next month, are held in secure units in northern England

Bulger killer 'responding well' to regime of rehabilitation

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

JON VENABLES, one of the boys convicted of killing James Bulger, is responding well to the counselling he has received since being sentenced. But psychiatrists express serious concern for his wellbeing if he is transferred to a young offender institution at 17 and then to prison.

The psychiatrists' reports were disclosed in the Appeal Court yesterday when three judges ruled that the Home Secretary acted unfairly in imposing a minimum 15-year sentence on the two boys convicted of murdering two-year-old James.

Venables has been exposed to a regime of education, discipline and care in a local authority secure unit in northern England. The judgment said that a full psychiatric report on the boy, who will be 14 next month, showed that he "was making excellent response to the therapeutic work and current family support that he was receiving". It added that "there would be

major concern for Venables to have to progress through young offender institutions to prison."

As the judgment highlighted the progress made by Venables, it disclosed that doctors for Robert Thompson, the other boy convicted of murder, who will also be 14 next month and who is held in a separate secure unit, had expressed concern for his future shortly after the trial.

The future dilemma for the authorities in deciding if and when to release the two boys was highlighted by Mr Justice Morland in a report written after the trial.

He said: "Very great care will have to be taken before either defendant is allowed out into the general community. Much psychotherapeutic, psychological and educational investigation assistance will be needed."

"Not only must they be fully rehabilitated and no longer a danger to others, but there is a very real risk of revenge

attacks upon them from others."

Both boys are likely to remain in the units for many years to provide stability and to help them to maintain links with their families. Thompson's mother and Venables' mother and father have changed their names and moved away from the homes where they lived at the time of the murder.

The boys, who were convicted at the age of 11, have not seen each other since the trial at Preston Crown Court. They are visited regularly by parents and can telephone home.

There are 28 secure units around the country. Most are attached to conventional children's homes and provide 300 places for serious young offenders and children with psychological difficulties.

They are designed to house groups of up to ten youngsters who are each provided with an individual programme of care and education. Thompson and Venables are regarded and

treated as children with a regime of discipline and education.

An exhaustive investigation into their educational and family histories and their psychological and psychiatric backgrounds has already begun. Initially, the units focused on the educational needs of the boys before tackling behavioural problems.

Inmates at the units occupy a single room within secure units that have common rooms with books, televisions, table tennis and pool tables. They can take part in a range of hobbies, including photography, music and carpentry.

The intention of the 1933 Children and Young Persons Act, under which the boys were sentenced, is rehabilitative, with every effort being made to prevent them from becoming institutionalised.

Their progress is reviewed every three months and the results are passed on to the Department of Health and to the Home Office.

£3.4m for bomb city in visit by Major

By Kate Alderson

THE Prime Minister announced a further £3.4 million funding for Manchester yesterday, during his first visit to the city since an IRA bomb exploded in the centre six weeks ago.

Mr Major, accompanied by Michael Heseltine, announced £3.2 million of lottery cash from the Arts Council for the damaged Royal Exchange theatre, and £200,000 for the Lord Mayor's emergency fund, which currently holds £1.25 million. It is being used to help small businesses and traders whose properties and stock were destroyed or damaged by the bomb.

"It will help many businesses, particularly those who face immediate hardship," said Mr Major in an interview with the *Manchester Evening News*. "The real problem is those who cannot get insurance cover."

"I think that we will reach the £1.6 million fund target. The extra £200,000 we've lobbied means that is now in sight. This is a very positive city."

The Government had already announced a rescue package to begin rebuilding the city centre, using £20 million of reallocated EU funds and £1 million to help prepare a master plan for the building work.

The Prime Minister, who has been criticised for not previously visiting the city, dismissed fears that attempts to help Manchester would be bogged down in red tape or that ministers would forget about the problem.

He was shown around city-centre stores, and talked to emergency staff and traders. Terence Frost, of the Jewel Time repair business, said: "I told him business was really bad. What I used to take in a day I now take in a week. The council has helped because we have not had to pay any rent as yet but the summer has been a disaster."

A spokesman for Manchester Chamber of Commerce said it was very difficult for insurance companies to make interim payments to help struggling businesses as the full extent of the damage would still not be known for a few more weeks.

Judge calls for debate on drugs

A senior Scottish Judge has called for a wider debate on the decriminalisation of cannabis, claiming that alcohol and cigarettes are more dangerous to health.

Lord McCluskey believes tough sentencing policies have failed to stamp out drug-related crime in the United States. He argues that treating all scheduled drugs the same alienates young people who get enjoyment from some illegal substances.

The comments feature in a written response to a White Paper on crime and punishment by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth.

Moonies date

Sir Edward Heath flew to Washington DC last night to meet the Rev Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, whose members are known as the Moonies. Sir Edward is one of several senior politicians, including the former US president Gerald Ford, who will speak at a conference with close links to the church.

Jet trio cleared

Three women accused of breaking into a British Aerospace factory and damaging a fighter jet with a hammer were cleared by a Liverpool Crown Court jury. Lotia Kronlid, 28, from Oxford, Andrea Needham, 30, and Joanna Wilson, 33, both from Kirby, denied causing criminal damage estimated at £1.5 million to the Hawk jet.

Jail attempt fails

Two Chief Constables failed in a High Court attempt to jail a journalist who refused to disclose the sources of a report to a police tribunal. Daniel Garavito, 28, declined to say who supplied her with information that led to a report in *The Journal*, Newcastle, over allegations that Northumbria Police crime figures had been massaged.

Officer named

The customs officer crushed while trying to board a blazing boat during a drugs operation in the Moray Firth has been named as Alastair Souter, 47, a holder of the Queen's Gallantry Medal. Mr Souter, who was married with grown up children, was based at Dundee. He won his medal for saving five sailors off Dartmouth in 1992.

Missing corporal

A British soldier serving in Bosnia has been given compassionate leave to join the search for his missing sister. Ian Billings, 22, of the Royal Signals, said Jacqueline, 26, was unhappy about her posting to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. She has not been seen since leaving her parents' home in Tamworth, Staffordshire, nine days ago.

Cosmetics claim

Evelyn Ross, 30, has been granted legal aid to pursue a claim for damages against Clinique, the cosmetics company. She alleges the company's beauty products harmed her skin and made her look like she had been punched in the face. Clinique is understood to be contesting the claim.

Aircraft brawl

Three men in their early twenties were arrested yesterday morning after a drunken brawl on an aircraft, police said. They were arrested at Manchester airport and six of their acquaintances escorted off the Air 2000 flight bound for Crete. The three are expected to be charged with public order offences.

One-day strike a popular weapon

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE one-day strike is the most popular weapon in the trade unions' diminished armoury. Since 1990, one and two-day strikes have accounted for 25 per cent of lost working days, compared with 6 per cent in the 1980s and 4 per cent in the 1970s.

The duration of industrial action has fallen in line with the erosion of trade union power, privatisation, fragmentation of much of industry and growing job insecurity. Government figures and trade union research shows that workers are now far keener to take action that may annoy employers but is unlikely to provoke wholesale sackings.

Lengthy strikes are largely a thing of the past. The miners' strike of 1984-85 cost 26.4 million working days while the telecom strike in 1985 cost 1.5 million days. In the 1980s there were on average six stoppages involving the loss of more than 100,000 days. This decade's average is one.

According to the Labour Research Department, there has been a big increase in the proportion of workers in-

involved in strikes lasting one or two days. In the 1990s almost two thirds of workers in industrial disputes were involved in action lasting one or two days. In the 1980s and 1970s the proportion was just under a third.

Over time bans are also moving up the agenda as a cause for action. The amount of pay workers are docked when they take short-term action can vary. Usually they lose a clear day's pay and that is happening with the postal workers. However, workers who work fewer days than the average within a year can see their pay trimmed proportionately.

The Trades Union Congress found in a recent survey of 31 unions that 65 per cent of industrial disputes involved strikes of one or two days. A spokeswoman denied, however, that this indicated weaker trade union power. "Short action is a way of delivering a sharp warning to the employer without causing undue disruption to other parties,"

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Curbs

Continued from page 1

emerged as a serious runner in recent weeks. Ministers believe that they should be tackled because they damage the public most but harm the workers least, particularly if they earn overtime from making up the lost production.

Mr Lang told BBC Radio 4's *Today* yesterday that the reduction or removal of the union's immunity from legal action for damages caused by lawfully constituted strikes in the public sector was being considered.

His remarks were met with undisguised scepticism from Labour and the unions who believe that, far from bringing in legislation which even the Thatcher government considered impracticable, the Government is trying to put Labour on the spot by giving the impression that it will act. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that Mr Lang was "playing politics".

The general secretary of the powerful GMB union, John Edmonds, dismissed Mr Lang's intervention as a "political ploy" with the Government looking for scapegoats ahead of a general election.

TUC general secretary John Monks said Mr Lang was misreading the mood of voters.

Joe Kennedy calls for Sinn Fein talks

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THREE days after the Atlanta bomb echoed the terror tactics of the IRA, a member of the Kennedy dynasty yesterday urged the British Government to meet Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein.

Joe Kennedy, the Democratic congressman for Massachusetts and the son of Bobby Kennedy, called on Whitehall and the Royal Ulster Constabulary to stop "acts of intimidation" against the Catholic and nationalist communities of Londonderry during the Apprentice Boys march next month.

"If Prime Minister Major can meet with a Protestant paramilitary group in London, he should sit down with Gerry Adams as well to keep the peace process from crumbling," Mr Kennedy said.

"While we condemn the violence of the Irish Republican Army and any who seek to gain political ends through violent means, we're very concerned about the friction of the British to prevent violence and acts of provocation against the Catholics of Northern Ireland," Mr Kennedy

and Ben Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, were meeting Sir John Kerr, the British Ambassador, in Washington yesterday to press home their concerns. The meeting had been organised before the Olympics bomb.

British officials said that the Clinton Administration was marching in step with Whitehall and Dublin in deciding there should be no ministerial contact with Sinn Fein. "The chances of Mr Kennedy making these points resonate would seem even less likely given the events of the past few days," said one official.

The Roman Catholic Ancient Order of Hibernians has cancelled an Assumption Day parade through a mixed Protestant and Catholic village in Co Tyrone next month to avoid raising sectarian tensions. The order, which defends Catholicism and promotes nationalism, said it had made the decision after widespread rioting in Northern Ireland during the loyalist stand-off at Drumcree this month.

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A moment later, Mrs
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to run overnight at 60C.

And that was the only
day for the morning yester
when she opened her front
door and found a battered

Father describes his 'tough little girl's' battle for recovery as police reconstruct double killing

Mother and daughters were 'victims of stalker'

By RICHARD DUCE

A STALKER probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was and bludgeoned to death with her six-year-old daughter on a country footpath, police said yesterday.

Dr Shaun Russell, speaking after police staged a reconstruction of his family's last walk home together, told how the "miraculous" recovery of his surviving daughter Josephine, 9, had helped him through the tragedy.

Dr Russell, 44, speaking from his cottage in Nonington, Kent, described how for three hours he did not know which of his two daughters had been murdered with his wife. Dr Russell said he was initially led to believe that Megan had survived the attack, but on arrival at hospital he found Josephine.

He said: "I didn't know which daughter had survived. I was rushing to London not knowing who I'd find in bed. Even though she was black and blue I knew it was Josie."

Dr Russell explained that police at the scene first thought both daughters were dead, but then a doctor found Josephine still had a pulse.

He said: "At that stage I was as much a suspect as anyone. I was in a pretty delirious state in those three hours. I thought they were all dead and saw nothing but a great big, black, empty future,



Shaun Russell at the gate of his cottage where he said yesterday he felt "gentleness and happiness"

no future at all. Then I saw Josie alive and now suddenly I had something to cling to."

Dr Russell, a lecturer in nature conservation in Canterbury, was speaking after a police reconstruction three weeks to the day after his wife and daughters were attacked as they walked home from school in the neighbouring

village of Goodnestone. He said Josephine's recovery from severe head injuries was close to "miraculous". He spends every day at the unnamed London hospital and usually sleeps in her room.

Dr Russell said: "Three weeks ago I thought she was going to die. A week later she was pulling out her tubes and

two weeks later she was climbing over a door to get to the fridge. She has an appetite like an ox. She is an extremely tough little girl."

Although Josephine can mutter only the simplest words and has the responses of a two-year-old, she has already been allowed out of hospital with her father to a nearby park where they fed squirrels and geese together.

Dr Russell, whose daughters always talked to their parents on first name terms, said the words managed so far by Josephine were "No, OK, Goodbye and Go Away Shaun".

He said it was not until 10 days after the attack that Josephine was told her mother and sister had died. "I was present but didn't do it myself. The main attending psychologist did that. I was one foot away. The doctors present told me that the message got through because she turned violently away."

"She has already has spontaneous outbursts of crying which are particularly upsetting to me. Things are starting to come back to her and she has started the grieving process. I've been offered counselling but turned it down. I save my tears for my own privacy."

He said watching Josephine's recovery was "like watching a young child grow up again before your eyes. She is still unable to concentrate for more than a few moments."



Actors follow the route the family took home from school in a reconstruction of the minutes before the attack

She can't respond to questions. To discuss events around this tragedy is a long way off.

"I don't feel any dread coming back to the house. I find it comforting with all the signs of my family around me. I feel gentleness and happi-

ness in the place." Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said the attack was "almost unique in British criminal history" where a mother had been killed as well as her children by a stranger. The family terrier Lucy was also killed in the attack.

Mr Stevens said the likelihood was that the family had been singled out by a stalker who had knowledge of the local country lanes and footpaths. "Certain things tell me the offender may have seen Mrs Russell before. It could have been from a distance or

he could have spoken to her." Police said that blood on a heavily-stained towel, seen being dumped in a hedge by the suspect, matched that of one of the victims, but they would not say which.

The reconstruction used actresses because locals were still too upset to take part.

Post clerk took home a fortune in shopping bags

By ADRIAN LEE

THE dumpy post office clerk hardly merited a second glance as she struggled on to the bus with her bags of shopping for the daily trip home from work. With her greying hair and her plain clothes, middle-aged Elizabeth Shiel was the epitome of respectability.

But, over a period of one week, the mother of two systematically emptied the counting house safe at the main Northampton sorting office of tens of thousands of pounds.

That week, in 1989, her plastic supermarket bags, casually stowed beneath her bus seat, were stuffed with banknotes. In place of the money, she left her groceries. By the Friday night, unable to resist the temptation of routinely handling a small fortune, she had stolen almost £250,000.

She and her husband, John, now 42, went on the run in the knowledge that their crime would not be detected for a week because of a delay in accounting procedures. They lived the high life in France, Italy and Spain, thinking nothing of spending £400 on a single meal.

Yesterday Shiel, now penniless and homeless, was jailed for 30 months. She had lived as an international fugitive for almost seven years.

The total stolen on three days — was £231,896.94, none of which was recovered. On Friday June 23, 1989, her husband was waiting outside, having shaved off his distinctive handlebar moustache, to drive them to Calais, the court was told.

Her husband — now estranged — was arrested six



Shiel: she spent seven years on the run after theft

months after the crime when he came back to England to collect more of the money. He was jailed for three and a half years after denying conspiracy to steal. His wife later slipped back into the country, living undetected in London for a short time, but then fled to Kenya using a false passport.

Pearl Willis, for the prosecution, said that the money ran out and she led a "poor and impoverished life", twice being jailed in Kenya for working illegally. On her release, in March, she came home.

She stepped off a flight at Heathrow into the hands of Detective Inspector Bob Smart, of Northamptonshire Police, who had been on her trail the whole time.

John Cartwright, for Shiel, said that she had benefited from about £86,000 of the stolen money. The rest had been left with a couple in Northampton, Roland and Marilyn Mason, who "somehow or other were relieved of that money". Shiel admitted theft.

Doctor is cleared of Christmas stabbing

By KATE ALDERSON

A DOCTOR was cleared yesterday of stabbing his stepson with a letter opener during a family argument on Christmas Day. Dr Ian Reid Entwistle said he was delighted with the verdict and would celebrate with champagne.

The jury at Liverpool Crown Court took almost four hours to find Dr Reid Entwistle, 64, not guilty of wounding Robert Fachiri with intent at Christmas 1994, and to the lesser, alternative, charge of unlawful wounding. Dr Reid Entwistle, from Gayton, Merseyside, denied attacking Mr Fachiri with the 18in knife in his sitting room.

During the seven-day trial the court was told that Mr Fachiri suffered a 5in deep wound to his abdomen and needed emergency surgery. The weapon was never recovered.

Mr Fachiri, 24, a diver, denied suggestions from Ian Alexander, QC, for the defence, that he inflicted the wound on himself so that he could sue his wealthy stepfather. He said that he grabbed his stepbrother, Alexander, by the lapels after he had called his mother a name and that Dr Reid Entwistle then got out of his chair and stabbed him with the letter knife.

Dr Reid Entwistle told the court that he did not stab Mr Fachiri, nor did anyone else and that there had never been any such knife kept in the room. The doctor, who was medical superintendent of the Cunard Group for 30 years, said that after the brawl his wife, Rosemary, began divorce proceedings. He had described the marriage as "most unusual".

Black and white washload survives overnight soak

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE badger simply wanted a comfortable place to sleep. The woman of the house simply wanted to do her washing. With incredible timing, they both chose the same place.

The young animal wandered into Mignon Muldoon's house just when she had gone to fetch a second batch of clothes for the overnight wash. It climbed into her open washing machine and snuggled down among the clothes that were already there.

A moment later, Mrs Muldoon returned, bundled more laundry inside, closed the door and set the machine to run overnight at 60C.

And that was the only possible explanation yesterday for the morning surprise when she opened her front-loader and found a battered



The badger: eight hours inside washing machine

and very clean badger inside. Mrs Muldoon, of Petersfield, Hampshire, said: "The washing was very smelly, which took me by surprise. Then I detected some movement and realised there was an animal staring straight at me."

"Then it jumped out of the machine and started running around looking very woolly

and soft and perfectly healthy." Mrs Muldoon called a vet. The badger, about six months old, was found to have a rump wound inflicted in a fight with another animal. After treatment, the RSPCA took it to a wildlife centre, where staff were astonished to find how well it survived its economy wash.

Graham Cornick, of the Hydestile Wildlife Centre, said: "The badger must have been in the wash about eight hours. It must have come in through a missing air brick in the wall and climbed into the machine when there were already some clothes in there."

It is now nicknamed Zanussi. Mr Cornick added: "It is going to be looked after for a long time because it might be attacked again if it is returned to the wild before it has fully recovered."

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We're still on Alan's side, say school friends who are now in a different league from £15m footballer

Teenage team-mates back Shearer's fantastic wages

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

FOURTEEN years after Paul Elliott and Alan Shearer played in the same team of under-12s, both are on wages of £180. Elliott earns that much in a week. Shearer in about an hour.

In 1982 all the boys in the trophy-winning Gosforth Central Middle School team were dreaming of football stardom. Some still play the game but none can match the fantastic earning power of Newcastle United's £15 million signing.

Shearer's annual income now includes £15 million a year from his new club (£30,000 a week), win bonuses of up to £10,000 per game, a £1 million slice of his transfer fee in five annual instalments, £100,000 from a Sunday newspaper and £60,000 as the top scorer in Euro 96.

This does not include the "sponsorship deals with Sugar Ruffs, Virgin Publishing and Classic Cola that have helped to pay for two expensive cars and a £450,000 house.



Gary Hays, a builder who plays non-league soccer, and his former team-mate Alan Shearer



Such was Shearer's popularity, however, that none of his schoolmates resents his success.

Paul Elliott, 26, right back, lives in Kendal, Cumbria. He went to university but now earns £180 a week on the production line of a confectionery firm, which also pays

him a £1,000 annual bonus. "I don't begrudge Alan the money," he said. "He's a good lad and deserves it."

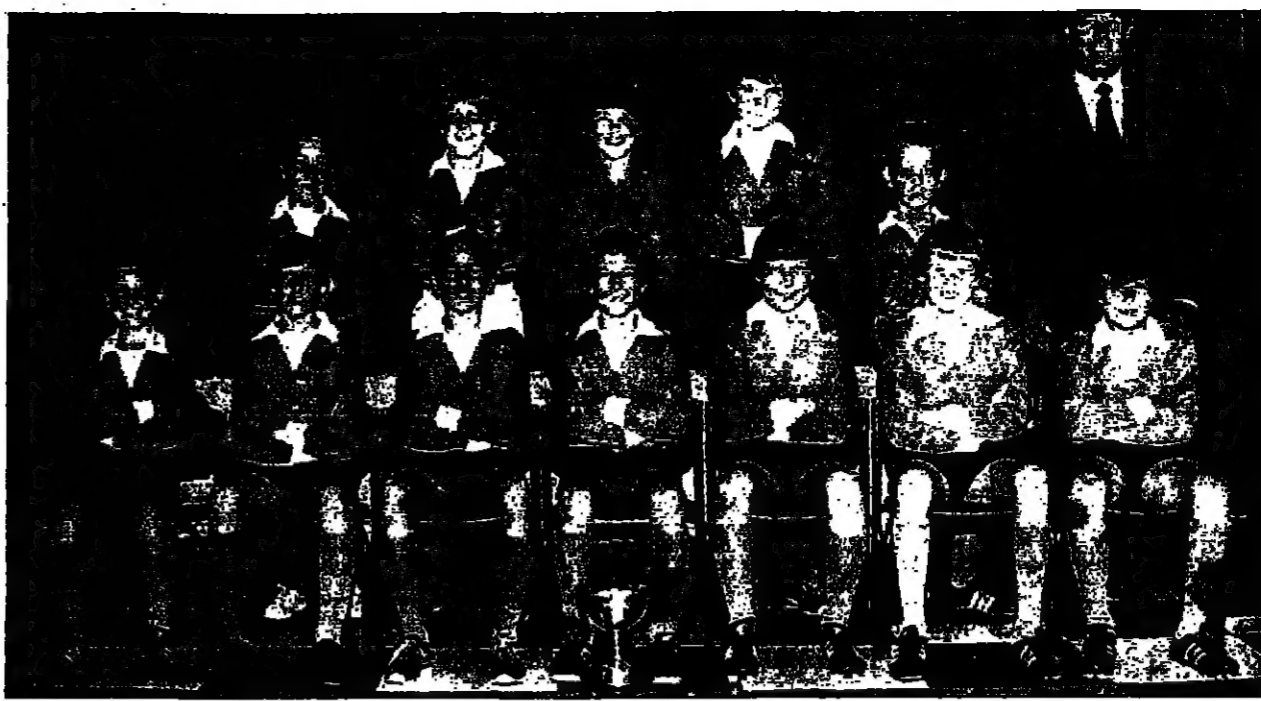
Garry Elliott, 25, right wing, is studying for a law degree. He gets a grant of about £1,700 a year and has a summer job with an insurance firm. "It's an awful lot of

money to pay for one player — too much really but if you want the best then that's how much you've got to spend and Alan's the best."

Steve Mayne, 26, centre half, signed on to receive £46 in family income support on the day that Shearer's signing was announced. He lives in a two-bedroom flat with his girlfriend and will go to university in September. "I'm quite happy with what I've got and he deserves his success because he's such a genuinely nice guy and great player."

Robert Crosby, 26, full back and sweeper, once had a trial with Manchester United and played for Newcastle Schoolboys with Shearer. Now he runs Fat Pigs Catering in Blaydon, Tyne and Wear. "I know we've all moved on but I'm sure he's the same nice lad he always was."

Andy McTaggart, 26, forward, played for non-league Newcastle Blue Star after leaving school but gave up after a serious ankle injury. Now he is a telecommunica-



The triumphant under-12 team of Gosforth Central Middle School: back row, from left, Chris Downs, Steve Mayne, Neil Whatmore, Robert Crosby, Andy McTaggart, teacher Brian Dockar. Front row, Nick Jones, Paul Elliott, Tony Harrison, Alan Shearer (captain), Garry Elliott, Steve Leech, Gary Hays

tions engineer, married with two children, and lives in Killingworth, Tyne and Wear.

Tony Harrison, 26, left back, a joiner in Newcastle, where he lives in the city centre, said: "I'm delighted he's done so well."

Gary Hays, 26, midfielder, is a builder and plays non-

league for Bedlington. He signed as an apprentice for Northampton Town but did not adjust to professional football. He once played for Northampton's youth team against Shearer at Southampton. "We lost 1-0 and he scored. He was always a very good player and a smashing

lad but I had no idea he would achieve what he's done."

Stephen Leach, 26, substitute, lives in Gosforth where he is a heating engineer at the AMEC offshore yard.

Brian Dockar, 62, teacher, never coached another school team after Shearer's under-12s. He retired in 1982 and

lives in Whitley Bay on a pension and his earnings as part-time secretary of a golf club. "I'm delighted he's done so well. He was the best footballer I ever had in any of my teams, but it's unbelievable to think anybody I taught could ever be earning that sort of money. It's all crazy."

PC cleared of sex assaults escapes force discipline

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICE officer who was cleared on the instructions of a judge of indecently assaulting two policewomen is to return to the beat without being officially disciplined.

PC Robert Bridle was found not guilty of four charges last week after Judge McCallum told Bradford Crown Court that his actions stemmed from "the sort of behaviour people are liable to indulge in when there's a lot of tension around".

The judge told the jury the case would be "dealt with in a more suitable forum" and West Yorkshire Police promised they would "robustly pursue" further action against the 41-year-old officer.

But they said yesterday that because PC Bridle, who has been suspended from work for nearly two years after allegations by two policewomen and a civilian, had already been tried, there was nothing further they could do. Bridle, of Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, was reinstated after a meeting with a senior officer who gave him "strong advice".

The force, which took legal advice on the issue, declined to say when and where PC Bridle will return to work. He still faces an industrial tribunal brought by one of his alleged victims.

The Home Secretary recently proposed radical changes to the system whereby an officer cannot be tried a second time if he has already been tried by a court. Chief Constable Keith

Hellawell said that, in the meantime, "we have no option but to apply the present rules".

He added: "The force will continue to set high professional standards and will not shirk from pursuing action against its officers for any behaviour that falls below those standards. We will not tolerate sexual harassment."

"We should not forget the impact that this case has had on the officers who raised the issue in the first place. One of our key priorities will be to offer whatever help, support and guidance we can to those involved in the case."

The 25-year-old woman who is taking PC Bridle and the force to an industrial tribunal is also suing the chief constable for compensation for the psychological injuries she claims she has suffered.

John Goodwin, her solicitor, said: "This news doesn't surprise me after what happened in court, but it doesn't mean her allegations will be withdrawn."

PC Bridle was accused of trying to kiss the WPC and grab her breasts, as well as another officer's breasts, at Halifax police station.

His solicitors issued a statement on behalf of the officer. It said: "The decision of West Yorkshire Police to reinstate and not bring disciplinary proceedings within such a short time of his acquittal at Bradford Crown Court totally vindicates PC Robert Bridle in this matter."



Student fails in cheating case

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A STUDENT'S 10-year campaign to clear his name of cheating and force Bristol University to reinstate his first class honours degree in mathematics failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Francis Foecke, 38, has run up a £50,000 bill in his legal battle against the university authorities who decided, after an inquiry in 1986, that his examination results were too good to be true.

The court refused to overturn the decision to withhold the degree, effectively agreeing with the university that it was "beyond reasonable doubt" that Mr Foecke had cheated. The court also struck out a libel claim against the university and mathematics professor Geoffrey Grimmett.

Mr Foecke, an American, of Redlands, Bristol, studied computer sciences and mathematics between 1983 and 1986, when he sat an "unprecedented" 13 papers in his finals, achieving first class results in them all. He always insisted that he achieved his high grades through hard work but was regarded by his tutors as a poor student. His first-year results were so poor that he was almost removed from the honours degree course.

University authorities were immediately suspicious when Mr Foecke's answers mirrored model solutions outlined by the examiner. The papers even mirrored the mistakes.



Foecke: results judged too good to be true

An inquiry, chaired by Dr Andrew Paterson, of the university's mathematics department, concluded that Mr Foecke had used knowledge of the examiner's solution which could not have been honestly obtained.

At the inquiry, Ian Karsten, counsel for the Board of Examiners, said there was no other explanation than that he saw the outline solutions. The examiner had used an unusual method of calculation that was faithfully reproduced by Mr Foecke.

Mr Foecke, a self-employed builder, said after yesterday: "It is not over as far as I am concerned. I can probably proceed to the European courts. I am determined to find some way of venting this affair in court."

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New technique allows surgeons to perform operation through four small holes in chest

Keyhole heart bypass cuts scars and recovery time

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

HEART bypass patients will be able to leave hospital within three days and return to work a week later after a breakthrough in keyhole surgery.

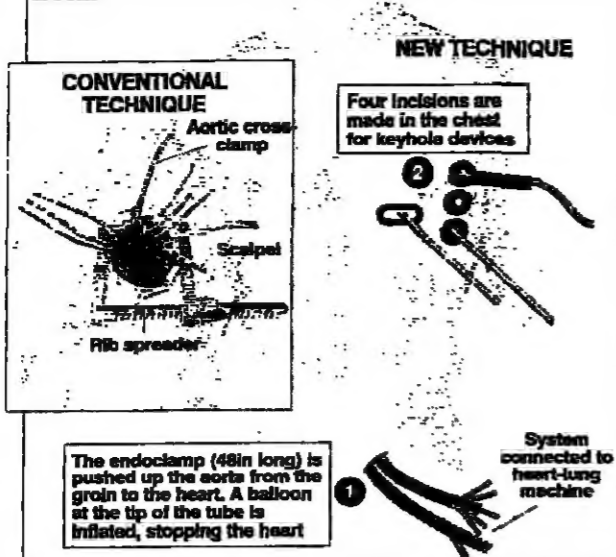
The new technique, which is being tested in three hospitals, leaves five small incisions in the chest and groin, the longest 2½ in. instead of a 9 in. gash from the base of the neck down across the ribcage.

Teams of surgeons at Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire, the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital in west London and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh have each used the new instruments and equipment successfully on three patients. The equipment, produced by Heartport, an American company, has been tested in the United States, Germany and Malaysia. The new operation takes four hours, slightly longer than using the traditional method.

They use delicate viewing and cutting instruments that allow them to work inside the body through small holes in the skin. The most important advance is a device called an endoclip, consisting of a 48 in. tube pushed, via a cut in the groin, through the aorta to the heart.

Once there, a balloon attached to the tube is inflated, stopping the heart so that it can be operated upon precisely. At the groin, the tube

BREAKTHROUGH IN HEART SURGERY



The endoclip (48in long) is pushed up the aorta from the groin to the heart. A balloon at the tip of the tube is inflated, stopping the heart

divides into two pipes connected to a heart-lung machine that takes blood in and out of the body, effectively replacing the organs' functions. In conventional bypass operations, surgeons expose the heart to attach it to a heart-lung machine; it is stopped with a stainless steel clamp. They then use a scalpel to cut the diseased artery or arteries and bypass them using other blood vessels. The keyhole devices allow surgeons to perform the operation through four small holes in the chest.

Under the old method, having a rib broken and tissue cut

can necessitate a ten-day stay in hospital, with a higher risk of pneumonia, and a three-month delay before the breastbone recovers enough to allow normal activities such as driving a car.

The keyhole method allows patients to leave hospital after three days. They can put on clothing such as pullovers almost immediately, unlike a normal bypass patient. Doctors hope that the technique will prove suitable for most of the 25,000 yearly bypass operations.

Geoffrey Ellis, 61, a salesman from Suffolk, was able to

walk his nine pet dogs within days of returning home from Papworth after keyhole surgery, to the relief of his wife Audrey, who had been taking them out four times a day.

This week he cut the lawn for the first time since developing angina two years ago. While ill, he was unable to get as far as the garden gate.

"I can walk for miles, clean the car, go up a ladder. It has gone completely," Mr Ellis said. He returned to work a month to the day after his operation. Most bypass patients never return to their jobs because they need three months to recuperate.

The new method will be tested on 45 people in Britain, all of whom have a single diseased blood vessel. Only 500 bypass operations a year involve single vessels as most patients have several diseased arteries. The surgeons hope the technique can be adapted to help the rest. They also believe the swift turnover will allow more operations to be performed.

A new form of vaccination could provide better protection against tuberculosis, scientists at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, north London, have shown. The existing vaccine, called BCG and originally introduced in 1908, is reasonably effective but can cause complications.

The Mill Hill team, led by Dr Douglas Lowrie, have



Geoffrey Ellis and his wife, Audrey. He was back at work a month after surgery

shown that equally good results can be obtained by injecting mice with a vaccine made from a stretch of the genetic material DNA that comes from the agent that causes leprosy, a mycobacterium closely related to the one responsible for TB. The team

isolated the length of DNA the leprosy bacterium uses to make a protein called hsp65, and injected it directly into the muscles of the mice. The muscle cells then began to manufacture hsp65.

The immune systems of the mice developed antibodies

against this foreign substance, enabling them to recognise and fight off the TB agent that carries the same protein.

Dr Lowrie said: "This is a very promising start indeed and with TB on the increase any new leads in fighting the disease have to be welcome."

Sun study looks for a ginger group

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

FAMILIES of redheads are being urged to help science to discover why they are more prone to skin cancer. DNA samples will be taken from generations of volunteers.

Dr Ian Jackson, of the Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, believes that unravelling the secret may help to find cures for a number of forms of the disease. He said: "Because of their pale skin, redheads almost invariably do not tan well. We want to follow the gene back and learn how it works. We need to take DNA from at least three generations — four would be ideal."

Ideally we would like a really large family, some with red hair and some dark. Someone will ask them a series of questions and take DNA samples, by collecting blood samples. Dr Jackson, who is not a redhead, has already collected samples from red-headed members of his own family at a recent wedding: "It was too good an opportunity to miss."

Last year, the team isolated a gene which they think is involved in determining skin colour and therefore the likelihood of tanning or burning. Dr Jackson's theory is that the gene may control pigmentation, but cannot trigger red hair unless another gene is also present. The number of the Human Genetics Unit is 0131 467 8413.

Don't hold a gun to GPs' heads over odd patients

IT IS unlikely that the Government will endorse the idea that doctors should counter-sign a patient's application for sporting or other gun licences.

Doctors would be fiercely opposed, mainly because of the clinical difficulty in judging when a patient is no more than eccentric and when he or she is suffering from a psychotic disease that might prove dangerous. Barring all the bizarre patients on our lists from holding a gun licence would result in many empty butts on the moors on August 12.

Doctors also fear that a patient's confidentiality might be unnecessarily breached. Peculiarities revealed in consultations are usually perfectly benign. To disclose their existence on a firearms application would be unlikely to save a life but might endanger future practice. If a patient is obviously paranoid or dangerously depressed, no doctor worth his salt would fail to ensure that the patient was denied easy access to a gun.

Major shooting incidents seem usually to have been associated with people whose behaviour should have caused comment. In Britain, the diagnosis of schizophrenia is hedged about by criteria defining which symptoms need to be present before its presence can be acknowledged. In other countries the disease is regarded more as a spectrum of symptoms and such terms as schiziform, schizoid or schiz, frowned upon by experts, are used to describe the resulting psychiatric conditions.

British society and patients might be healthier if we were not so rigid in our diagnostic terms. Not everybody who



Dr Thomas Stuttford

has a gun is always a responsible citizen but they may not necessarily be dangerous. In country districts, shotguns are widely owned and sometimes misused, and most older country doctors have memories of the dangers such weapons caused before regulations were stricter.

I shall never forget the Fletchers. An appalling obstetric history had resulted in Mary Fletcher having three entertaining, boisterous daughters under the age of seven and a series of bloody miscarriages. Thirty years ago I was giving her a few words of advice on the advantages of the recently introduced Pill when her husband Peter appeared in the bedroom of their Norfolk cottage, having climbed the stairs that led, like a stable ladder, directly from the room below.

Peter was beside himself with anger and determined that his wife should not be instructed in such unnatural practices as contraception. Being rather busy with his wife's bleeding, I gave Peter a firm push. He fell backwards with a clatter down the stairs and lay still for a few moments before recovering and leaving the cottage.

The next time I was in the village I noticed him driving his tractor with a 12-bore across the dashboard. Peter's employer, Billy, was not reas-

suring. I had explained that I thought the gun might be intended for me. Billy replied: "Ah, doctor, but it is. Peter is terrified of you and said you nearly killed him last week, but he has promised he will only use his gun in self-defence."

On another occasion in a neighbouring village, a middle-aged man sent for me to examine his wife, who had gynaecological problems. The husband took his shotgun off the wall, loaded it, and as the examination proceeded held it pointed to my chest while he cocked and uncocked the old-fashioned mechanism from time to time.

As I carried out the examination I wondered if the husband was familiar with gynaecological procedures, or whether he might mistakenly think I had transgressed the standard examination procedures. But all was well: at the end of the examination he hung up his gun and said: "So glad I didn't have to use it — I have always liked you, doctor."

I thought I ought to discuss the incident with my senior partner but he was not impressed. "Don't you worry about that, once I delivered a baby with the father holding a gun to me, assuring me that if the baby died, so would I. I have never been so pleased to hear a newborn child cry."

Artificial skin used to treat girl's birthmarks

By NIGEL HAWKES

A GIRL aged 12 has had birthmarks repaired using artificial skin in what is believed to be the first such operation in Britain.

Andrew Burd, a surgeon based at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, used a material called Integra, which mimics human skin, encouraging it to grow under a protective layer. So far the use of the product in Britain has been confined to the treatment of burns.

The girl, who has not been named, had the surgery on two birthmarks on her legs. Now Mr Burd hopes to use the technique to treat major burn cases and to remove tattoos and birth marks.

Integra is softer and more durable than human skin and reduces the risk of unsightly scars. It can also be used to cover large areas: human skin transplants are suitable only for smaller areas.

Integra was developed by

Professor Ioannis Yannas of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Professor John Burke of Harvard Medical School. It was given approval in May this year by the Medical Devices Agency.

It consists of two layers, one of collagen, a fibrous material derived from animal tendons, and the other of silicone rubber. When the material is placed on a burn, it forms a scaffold for the skin cells to grow around.

Natural enzymes digest the collagen, leaving a perfect layer of dermis — the lower level of natural skin — without scar tissue. The upper layer of silicone, there to protect the wound in the early stages and prevent moisture loss, is removed as the wound heals.

"This process takes a couple of weeks," Mr Burd says. "The silicone layer is removed and a layer of the patient's own epidermal cells — the upper

layer — is seeded onto the new dermis. After a further week a complete new skin has been formed with no scarring."

Integra is manufactured by Integrated Life Sciences Corporation of Boston, Massachusetts, in 10 in by 4 in sheets costing £800 each.

One patient to benefit is 10-year-old Andrew O'Donnell, who suffered severe burns to the upper body on holiday in France six years ago when a tent caught fire.

The technique was tried after four years of skin grafts. Andrew's mother, Linda O'Donnell, 36, from Dursley, Gloucestershire, said yesterday: "So far it looks very good. He has had other grafts, but the corners started to die. So when Mr Burd mentioned it, we agreed because we were willing to try anything."

Andrew said: "It itches a little, but I think it's great."



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Couple official assault

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Couple posed as officials to rob and assault pensioners

By JOANNA BALE

THREE pensioners were attacked and robbed in their homes by a young couple posing as social services officials, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

The three watched from the public gallery as John McDonagh and Catherine Bates admitted burgling their homes in the Small Heath area of Birmingham last November.

The court was told that the smartly dressed pair pretended to be from social services when they called on Stanley Clarke, 84, a retired insurance superintendent. Claiming they were there to fit smoke alarms after a fire next door, they asked Mr Clarke for £5 and later demanded more. When Mr Clarke refused, he was punched in the face, tied up and left on his bed, while the couple stole £195.

Two days later they called on Daisy Drew, 82, a 4th (10th) great-grandmother who lived



McDonagh and Bates admitted attacks

alone. They forced their way indoors, again demanding £5. When she refused they repeatedly punched and kicked her in the face, then stole 74p from her purse and ripped a pair of gold earrings from her ears.

Mrs Drew suffered a fractured collarbone and a broken finger after McDonagh and Bates stamped on her hand as they tried to steal her wedding ring. She was left tied up in her home for more than three hours and needed 15 stitches to wounds on her face.

The same evening they called on Alberta Green, 79,

who also lived alone. As she emptied the rubbish outside her home they forced their way in, claiming to be relatives, and attacked her, ransacking her home.

They stole £600, leaving her bound and gagged on the sofa. Mrs Green was found by her milkman 36 hours later, suffering from severe shock and hypothermia.

McDonagh, 37, of no fixed address, and Bates, 27, from Lee Bank, Birmingham, both admitted burgling Mr Clarke's home. McDonagh admitted assaulting him and an identical charge against Bates was ordered to lie on the file. Both also admitted robbing Mrs Drew of her earrings and robbing Mrs Green.

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report on Bates and both were remanded in custody.

Mrs Drew and Mr Clarke have since moved from their homes and Mrs Green now uses a wheelchair. She was wheeled into the ground-floor



Stanley Clarke, Alberta Green and Daisy Drew, who were attacked and robbed in their homes by McDonagh and Bates



courtroom yesterday and stared at the couple as they gave their pleas.

After the hearing she said: "They were guilty so they have to plead guilty. I don't think very much of them. I think I could choke them. I hope they go down for a long time but it isn't what I think that matters. It is up to the court now."

Mr Clarke, a widower who also uses a wheelchair, now lives in Wales, a move he had planned before the attack. He said: "I was very pleased to see

them where they should be. I hope they are given a long term — they have aptly deserved it."

The £195 stolen from his house was due to be used for shopping and paying bills, he said. He has since been paid £2,500 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

"It was only money but being knocked about is more serious than the loss of the cash," Mr Clarke said.

"When I saw them today in court it passed over my head. I

have no violent reaction at all."

Mrs Drew now lives with her daughter and uses walking sticks. She was helped into the courtroom by her family. She said: "They are both as bad as each other. I think it is terrible they were not sentenced today. I am still having nightmares. I am never getting over that."

Donna Purdue, 31, her granddaughter, said the family had suffered badly from the attack. "She is not the same

woman," she said. "She was so up and about. She was not 82 in her head. She has always been young, going out, buying things for people. Now she just sits there. At first we thought she was giving up on us but she has fought a real battle."

"She lived there for around five years on her own but now she lives with her daughter and she has never been back. When they attacked her, they attacked the whole family. It has destroyed part of our

family." Yesterday was Mrs Drew's first time out of the house since last November. She intends to return to court to see the pair are sentenced.

Detective Sergeant Julie Appleton said after the hearing: "We want a substantial sentence, double figures. They have ruined these people's lives."

"It has been difficult for the victims to get to court but I am sure they will come back again because they want to see these people punished."

Male teachers are shunning primary schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MALE teachers will disappear from primary schools by 2010, Anthea Millett, the chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency said yesterday. Men are being deterred from entering the profession by its poor public image and, according to teachers, the risk of being accused of abusing pupils.

Over the last decade, the number of male teachers in England has fallen by more than 10 per cent to just 30,000, while the ranks of women teachers have grown by a similar amount to 140,000. The gender gap is greatest among new teachers and growing wider, according to Whitehall figures. Just one in ten male primary teachers is under 30 and more than two thirds are over 40.

Ms Millett, speaking at the annual conference of the Professional Association of Teachers, suggested that a poor public image of teaching may be to blame for the failure to attract men. She said the introduction of targets to encourage male recruits was now being considered.

Teachers at the conference said the lack of male role models in the classroom could be to blame for declining standards of achievement among boys. Girls perform better at every A-level subject except physics and 48 per cent of girls gain five good GCSE passes compared to 39 per cent of boys. They said men were deterred by low pay and the fear of being falsely accused of child abuse.

The agency, set up two years ago, cannot set quotas for male recruits to teacher training colleges in case it breaks sex equality laws. However Ms Millett said it would be "looking at the balance of men

and women and setting targets". She said the agency would also force every college to raise its entry standards each year for the next four years in a bid to elevate the status of teaching and attract more men.

She said: "If we go on at this rate we shall have no men left in the profession by 2010 in the primary sector. I suspect that once we reach a certain level it will be difficult to change but nurses have managed to do it."

Ms Millett said the media had a role to play in reviving the standing of teachers. Television programmes such as *Casualty* and *Chicago Hope* had helped boost the image of male nurses.

June Smedley, a retired teacher from Aston upon Trent, Derbyshire, told delegates: "The teaching profession is becoming increasingly feminised. You might like to consider what happens in any area of employment which becomes known as women's work."

Elizabeth Arnold-Davies, head of Grove Infants school in Portland, Dorset, which has no male teachers, said: "I have been a head for fifteen years and I have never had a man apply for a job. A lot of men are very uncomfortable with young children and the modern trend to suspect any relationship between men and young children is backfiring."

"Men feel very much at risk. Small children want to touch people and men are very wary of this and it puts them off."

She said both boys and girls benefited from having a male teacher, especially if they were being brought up by a single mother, to give them a balanced view of society.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Philippines gives Briton 17 years for child abuse

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

A COURT in the Philippines sentenced a jobless Briton to 17 years in jail yesterday for sexually molesting his landlady's two young sons.

Steven Mitchell, 44, formerly of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, became the second foreigner to be convicted for paedophilia under legislation introduced in 1993 to combat an increase in sexual abuse in the Philippines. Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister, watched the last session of the court as a measure of Britain's efforts to help Asian countries to combat abuse. She said: "Paedophiles must be punished, whatever their nationality and wherever they commit their offences."

Mitchell was ordered to pay £5,000 damages to the victims and the cost of the action brought by their mother. She said she saw him molesting one of the boys in his rented room.

Two other Britons are on trial in the Philippines for similar offences to Mitchell's.

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'Those who break the rules should resign'

Backbench MPs seek end to ministerial deception

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SENIOR backbench MPs demanded a code of conduct yesterday to prevent government ministers from misleading the Commons.

The Public Service Committee wants a resolution spelling out the obligations of ministers to be open and honest and a requirement for them to resign if they breach the rules. The MPs have produced a long report saying that ministers should be accountable as well as responsible for their actions and must respond to criticism of their departments.

The report was commissioned after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Derek Lewis, the sacked head

of the Prison Service, clashed over ministerial responsibility for prisons. The committee has a Tory majority.

Mr Lewis was dismissed over a damning report on jail security. He said later that the Home Secretary had not given the Prison Service the backing it needed. He complained that he had been the scapegoat for Mr Howard's reforms and accused him of frustrating policy with U-turns, interference and incompetence.

The MPs' report, *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*, has been given extra weight by problems encountered during the Scott inquiry, when it transpired that minis-

ters had given misleading answers to Parliament.

Under the committee's proposals, which it wants approved in a resolution of the House, all MPs, ministers and witnesses appearing before Commons committees would be "obliged not to obstruct or impede it in the performance of its functions".

Staff from the semi-independent executive agencies, chief executives and civil servants would be asked to give "frank and clear" evidence rather than to toe the department's line. "Ministers are accountable, but civil servants must give an account," the report says. It lays down guidelines

to try to prevent arguments between chief executives and ministers over responsibility and ministerial interference, but admits that there are some grey areas that have to be "fudged".

The committee consists of 11 backbenchers, including the former Public Service Minister David Hunt. They say that ministers who break the rules should be particularly culpable. "Because ministers have a duty to account to Parliament for the policies, decisions and actions of their departments and agencies, the House will regard breaches by them of the obligation described above as particularly serious."

The present system has too many "responsibility escape clauses" for ministers. They should not be allowed to fudge issues for political advantage. "Ministers must take special care to provide information that is full and accurate to Parliament and must, in their dealings with Parliament, conduct themselves frankly and with candour."

The committee recognises that ministers may need on occasions to withhold information, but says that they should do so only exceptionally. "They must not knowingly mislead Parliament and they should correct any inadvertent errors at the earliest opportunity. The House will expect ministers who do knowingly mislead it to resign."

The report says: "The Prime Minister must take responsibility to ensure that ministers live up to the standards required of them and to decide whether their performance is good enough although, in judging them, he will have to take into account the extent to which ministers retain the confidence of the House."

Giles Radice, the Labour chairman, said: "Parliament has never had a parliamentary code which sets out ministerial responsibility and we are determined to do it."

The report aims to give backbench MPs greater power. The committee wants MPs to be able to complain to the Ombudsman when information is withheld from a government department and for it to become standard practice for ministers to have to explain why information is withheld.

The committee has been promised a government reply before the Commons sits in October and hopes that the resolution will be approved before the general election.

PETER RIDDELL

Remedy lies in improving Parliament's performance

Parliament has to improve its performance if ministerial accountability to the Commons is to be strengthened — and the multiple breaches of the principle identified by the Scott inquiry are to be avoided. That is the most important implication of yesterday's report from the Public Service Committee, *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*, which offers the most thorough, balanced and up-to-date discussion of the issue.

The committee decided to look at the topic because of the controversy over the meaning of accountability raised by the creation of the Next Steps executive agencies and the sacking of Derek Lewis as head of the Prison Service last October. The inquiry was broadened after the publication of the Scott report in February.

The debate has often foundered over the elusive concepts of responsibility and accountability. These have fascinated constitutional theologians and provided convenient let-outs for ministers and civil servants. The MPs have not tried to shift from the traditional doctrine of ministerial accountability to Parliament but have sought to pin ministers down — by proposing that, for the first time, Parliament itself should define what is required from ministers in a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Commons resolution and then by setting out the way in which ministers are expected to answer questions. The committee also makes some cautious suggestions about monitoring and the accountability of civil servants and heads of executive agencies.

There is, of course, no guarantee that deliberate obfuscation of the kind shown by the Scott report or the more familiar type of ministerial evasion on embarrassing topics can be avoided. Traditional constitutional conventions on the balance between ministers, civil servants and Parliament remain, and there is bound to be tension between the executive and the legislature, or rather between the Government and the opposition parties.

But if the committee's recommendations are accepted, as they should be before the election, the balance will have tilted a little towards Parliament, not least because the code of accountability will have been defined by MPs rather than just by the Prime Minister, as occurs now.

Members of the committee realised as the inquiry proceeded that many of the

remedies lie in Westminster rather than Whitehall. The final sections of the report contain a frank discussion of what the Commons needs to do to make accountability a reality. Select committees have a patchy record in carrying out major investigations. The report takes up the idea floated by the Trade and Industry Committee for special parliamentary commissions to establish the facts on complex subjects, such as the arms-for-Iraq affair. There are broader questions about the focus and work of select committees — the day-to-day forum for accountability. This does not necessarily mean a big increase in staff or resources, on the American model, but rather a better use of what is already available, such as allowing the National Audit Office to carry out studies for departmental select committees.

As the report suggests, broader inquiries into the work of select committees and the legislative process are needed, preferably this winter to provide a starting point for the next Parliament. What yesterday's report shows yet again is how the Commons needs to strengthen its procedures if it is to fulfil its aspirations, and, incidentally, rebuild its reputation.

PETER RIDDELL



Mrs Bottomley with Sally Thomas, 7, from Stoke-on-Trent, at the report's launch

Lottery to fund renaissance of arts education in schools

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS will be allowed to apply for National Lottery cash to fund trips to museums, galleries, concerts and ballet as part of a government plan to revitalise arts education.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said the money could also pay for musical instrument libraries, teaching workshops, and visits to schools by artists. Under the scheme, schools can apply to the Arts Council for "tens of millions" to fund specific projects and trips.

Mrs Bottomley spoke of making young people passionate about the arts — everything from contemporary dance and jazz to folk and circus skills — as spectators, performers or creators. "We owe it to the next generation," she said, explaining that the National Lottery would make it all possible.

Setting the Scene, the Arts and Young People, published by the Department of National Heritage, recognises

how the arts enrich the quality of life and develop adult skills.

It is issued a month after a MORI survey of music teachers concluded that a shortage of 700,000 musical instruments in schools was to blame for falling standards in music tuition. Last year, the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music said that children from poorer families could lose the chance ever to learn a musical instrument because of cuts in tuition: it expressed alarm over the dwindling numbers of children learning the piano.

The Heritage report encourages "coalitions of schools" to apply for lottery grants. Earl Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, said: "Just as a symphony orchestra can bid for musical instruments, so can local authorities or a network of schools."

The lottery has already begun to transform the lives of hundreds of children:

£1,500 has paid for percussion instruments at Braybrook Primary School in Peterborough, and Robinswood Primary School at Matson, Gloucestershire, has built a 120-seat theatre and an art room with a £80,000 grant.

A spokesman for Robinswood said: "We have better facilities now, which is a great help. An arts centre has made a big difference to the school. It was impossible to get funding before."

The report encourages all schools to apply for National Lottery cash and give the arts an integral place in their development.

Colin Grigg, head of education for the Tate Gallery, was encouraged by the report but noted the irony that the gallery's annual grants for running costs are being cut. The National Curriculum will not incorporate more arts teaching in the timetable and Mrs Bottomley would not specify how much money will be spent under the arts initiative.



Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred

Art scholars rally to save painting

BY DALYA ALBERGE

TWO of the world's most eminent scholars have attacked Lord Rothschild for refusing to increase a lottery grant to save a 17th-century Italian masterpiece for the nation.

Sir Denis Mahon and Sir Hugh Leggett called on the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund to top up the £1.53 million grant promised to the National Galleries of Scotland, which needs £2.43 million to buy the painting by Il Guercino, *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred*. It is £276,000 short of its target.

They asked why he did not take advantage of a government policy which states that lottery funding should be "flexible". If the money cannot be raised, an export licence will be granted to the Getty Museum in California, which bought the painting from the Howard family of Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, where it had hung since 1772. The National Galleries of

Scotland have secured permission to exhibit the painting to inspire benefactors to come forward before the export deadline expires on August 15. Sir Hugh, a former member of the Museums and Galleries Commission, and honorary adviser to the national portrait galleries of England and Scotland, said: "The heritage trustees should hang their heads in shame. What are we hanging around for?" Sir Denis, who has given £24,000 to the fund, said it was ridiculous for the heritage fund to maintain that it could not help any further.

Ian Sprat, the National Heritage Minister, said on Monday that, although partnership funding was required, he encouraged lottery distributors to be "flexible in their interpretations of this requirement". A spokesman for the heritage lottery fund said yesterday that it had faith in the fundraising abilities of the National Galleries of Scotland.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farewell to Jade draws 500 mourners

Five hundred mourners attended the funeral of Jade Matthews, nine, who was found dead three weeks ago at Bootle, Merseyside. Members of her Cub Scout group formed a guard of honour at the church, where she was a bridesmaid last year for her mother Denise, 31, and stepfather Steven, 37. Her headmaster, Bob Branch, said: "She had such energy, such love of life, and she shared it with us through her smile." A boy aged 13 has been charged with murder.

Sorry sight

A thief who stole £568 of goods from a furniture shop in Darlington was ordered by the town's magistrates to go back and apologise. When he returned with a note from the manager, Anthony Middleton, 20, was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

Virtual lectures

Students hundreds of miles apart in northern Scotland will be able to share lectures thanks to £500,000 of government funding announced yesterday. Video conferencing will unite the proposed University of the Highlands and Islands.

Death payout

The family of an Irish policeman killed in Sarajevo while on UN duty has been awarded £500,000 compensation against the Minister of Finance by the High Court. Sergeant Paul Reid, 34, died when his vehicle was hit by sniper fire and crashed.

Shining example

Fire engines and police cars used headlights to illuminate an airfield at Rochester, Kent, to guide a helicopter carrying a pregnant woman on to the runway, which is normally closed at night. She was being transferred from hospital in Eastbourne to Chatham.

Sheep dip

A lifeboat rescued three RSPCA officers who became stuck at the bottom of a 400ft cliff near Lee, North Devon, after they awoke down to try to save a stranded sheep. Attempts to pull the sheep up the cliff failed. It died, apparently due to stress.

Getting the bird

A pigeon lost four years ago during its first race has been found in China. Phil Hoddinott, from Dorchester, who released the pigeon in West Sussex, received a telephone call this week telling him that his bird had been found in Dalian, Manchuria.

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£ 25,000+	4.40	3.52	4.31	3.45
£ 10,000+	4.00	3.20	3.93	3.14
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£ 5,000+	2.85	2.28	2.81	2.25
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

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	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.30	2.64	3.25	2.60
£10,000+	2.95	2.36	2.91	2.33
£ 5,000+	2.50	2.00	2.47	1.98
£ 500+	2.15	1.72	2.13	1.70
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Below £5,000	1.00	0.80

1619 Account, Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
£500+	2.15	1.72
£250+	2.00	1.60
£100+	1.75	1.40
£ 50+	1.25	1.00
Below £50	1.00	0.80

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	4.98	3.96
£ 50,000+	4.65	3.72
£ 25,000+	4.31	3.45
£ 10,000+	3.93	3.14
Below £10,000	2.13	1.70

Deposit Account		Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
		Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£1+		0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20

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Europe may fine firms obeying anti-Cuba curbs

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN companies may face hefty fines for co-operating with American courts seeking to enforce President Clinton's "trading with the enemy" legislation, the European Commission said yesterday. The initiative is part of a package of measures designed to retaliate against the US Administration's attempt to extend American law beyond its continental boundaries.

In what is being seen as a clear signal that the European Union is prepared to stare down America, the Commission's proposal would make it illegal for European companies to co-operate with any legal action taken under the so-called Helms-Burton Act.

Brussels regards the Act, which allows US companies to sue foreign ones for "trafficking" in assets taken over by Cuba's Communist state, as a flagrant violation of national sovereignty.

Helms-Burton, an amalgamation of decades of Washington's anti-Cuba legislation, became law this month. After protests from Western allies, President Clinton, in effect, suspended the relevant part of its application until February.

But, because of the Act's retrospective clauses, companies with investments in

Europe's rail freight industry will be all but extinct early next century without a considerable attempt to reverse its fortunes. Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes). Unveiling a White Paper, he called for a Europe-wide network of rail freight freeways to help the railways to compete better with road transport.

property confiscated by Cuba after the 1959 revolution could find themselves liable from November.

The Clinton Administration said last night that the Commission's measures would have no effect. A White House official added: "The Helms-Burton Bill is not designed to punish those who do business with Cuba but those who traffic in stolen property there. If the Europeans wish to divest themselves of stolen property, they will have no problem."

Under the Commission's proposal, European companies will be instructed not to obey US courts on grounds of "sovereign compulsion". The objective would be "to tie the

US legal system up in knots so that it could not function properly," one official said.

If the US courts then sequester some or all of the assets of European firms for failing to comply with Helms-Burton's provisions, European firms will be able to "claw back" equivalent damages from US subsidiaries operating in the European Union, the Commission said.

European companies will also be required to begin compiling a "watch list" of US companies that file lawsuits against them, so the Commission can monitor the scale of US legal action. Those failing to notify the Commission that they have become the subject of US legal action or who co-operate with US courts, will face "proportional, effective and dissuasive sanctions", the Commission said.

Sanctions are likely to be similar to those that can be imposed under Britain's 1980 Protection of Trading Interests Act, under which companies can be fined up to £5,000 for every document they hand over to foreign courts.

Brussels is preparing to initiate legal proceedings against the US at the World Trade Organisation for violating international trade law, while officials are drafting plans to impose visa restrictions on US citizens in retaliation for the visa restrictions imposed on EU citizens.

The Council of Ministers is expected to decide on the Commission's proposal in September. Sir Leon Brittan, the EU External Relations Commissioner, said: "Europeans and Americans share a continuing desire to help to turn Cuba into a responsible member of the international community."

But, he said the Helms-Burton Act "is not the right way to achieve that goal", adding that it "offends and attacks America's trusted allies, damages business confidence in the US and beyond, and establishes a dangerous precedent".



Brittan: US Act will set a dangerous precedent

EU 'mad cow' bill could exceed £1bn

BY MICHAEL DYNES

MORE than £1 billion will have to be raised from the European Union's agriculture budget to help pay for eliminating "mad cow" disease, the European Commission disclosed yesterday.

Unveiling Brussels' new policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul, Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, announced plans for a 7 per cent cut in cereal and set-aside subsidies to help to support Europe's beef farmers. The proposals will be submitted to EU agriculture ministers for approval in September.

The plan is likely to provoke a furious response from cereal and set-aside farmers. Many already believe that the commission is using the beef scare as a back-door way of reducing subsidies.

"This is a drastic situation which requires drastic measures," Herr Fischler said. "The crisis is large. It is the largest crisis faced by the beef sector in Europe's history. We need to take swift decisions."

Commission officials fear that the collapse in consumer

confidence that followed Britain's announcement that the disease could possibly be transmitted to humans who eat contaminated beef and beef products, may lead to a permanent drop in consumption of about 15 per cent.

Herr Fischler has been trying to restore confidence in Europe's beef and lamb markets, but he helped to fuel a new scare last week by announcing plans for a ban on the brains, nervous systems and offal of sheep after tests showed that sheep could be infected with the disease.

After the virtual disappearance of European surpluses, the beef mountain is back. Across the 15 member states, more than 50,000 tonnes of unusable and unsaleable beef is being taken into storage every month. This situation can be expected to continue until production is brought into line with reduced demand.

The Commission also hopes to reduce the beef surplus by slashing the extent and range of subsidies for beef farmers.



Changing face of Pravda — the 84-year-old Communist newspaper has become a tabloid to win more readers

Pravda turns over a new leaf

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONE of the last pillars of Communism came crashing down yesterday morning when *Pravda*, the once-venerable voice of the Soviet Communist Party, succumbed to market forces and hit newsstands as a tabloid.

In an extraordinary twist to the fortunes of a paper founded by Lenin 84 years ago, and still loyal to his ideology, the new-look *Pravda* will concentrate on crime, youth, fashion and other aspects of modern life which its ageing and dwindling readership had been spared.

Yesterday's edition was void of the usual ideological commentaries that filled the final broadsheet edition. It devoted a whole page to crime-fighting and carried an item about Masons in the British police.

The decision to turn the broadsheet into a tabloid came after a long-running dispute between *Pravda*'s Greek owners and Aleksandr Ilyin, the Editor, over the paper's future. The contest came to a head earlier this month in an unseemly battle, which at one point led to police being called in by the Editor to investigate the alleged theft of *Pravda*'s three valuable "Order of Lenin" medals which still adorn the masthead.

"There was never any theft. The orders



Lenin: the paper's founder

were in our safe all the time," said Theodore Yannikos, the director of *Pravda* International, the newspaper's publisher. "The move was just an attempt by the Editor to intimidate us."

The Yannikos family bought a controlling interest in 1992 when the paper was on the verge of collapse. Once published in 44 cities across the former Soviet Union and boasting a readership of 11 million, the daily has seen circulation shrink to about 200,000. It has faced repeated threats of closure by the authorities for a consistently pro-Com-

munist editorial line. For the past year Mr Yannikos and his brother Christos have been trying to attract new readers with *Pravda* *Pyat*, a slick weekly tabloid produced by a team of young journalists under a different editor.

"The incident over the Orders of Lenin was the last straw," Mr Yannikos said. "We demanded Mr Ilyin's resignation and suspended publication of *Pravda*. Starting this week, subscribers are receiving *Pravda* *Pyat* on a daily basis."

Although he would not say whether the old format would be published again, Mr Yannikos said the time had come for change.

"We have been very patient and poured money into *Pravda* even though journalistic standards have been falling," Mr Yannikos said. "The time has come to face the fact that our readers don't want some long, boring article taking up a whole page."

Mr Ilyin contends that the call for his resignation and the replacement of his paper by a 16-page tabloid is the result of President Yeltsin's victory over the Communists in this month's presidential election. "We are taking an independent position and that is why they don't like me," he said. The owners wanted to pursue a more centrist ideological line in keeping with Russia's other, more successful, mass circulation papers.

UN 'held back Nato help for Muslims'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE commander of the Nato peace force in Bosnia-Herzegovina disclosed yesterday that he had tried to send in bombers to stop the Serbs overrunning the doomed Muslim enclave of Srebrenica last year, but was blocked by the United Nations.

Admiral Leighton Smith, who retires today as commander of the 60,000-strong implementation force, Ifor, described the suspected massacre of thousands of Muslims in the town in eastern Bosnia last July as an "abomination that should never have occurred". He underlined the frustrations of being in command when the UN held a veto over military action.

Admiral Smith admitted he found intolerable the "dual key" system under which approval had to be given by a senior UN civilian or military official in Zagreb. During Admiral Smith's tenure, Yasushi Akashi, the UN envoy, was the civilian holding one of the keys. The UN military commander was General Bernard Janvier.

Admiral Smith said: "I hated the dual key. I thought it was the worst thing we could possibly have become involved in."

He said Nato bombers were ready to strike at Serb tanks advancing on Srebrenica, a UN "safe area", several days before the town fell. He made a number of appeals to the UN commanders to approve airstrikes, but to no avail.

No air power was used until July 11, when Nato aircraft gave close support to about 400 Dutch UN peacekeepers. But the intervention came too late to prevent the Serbs from seizing the town.

UN war crimes tribunal investigators are gathering evidence to try to prove that the Bosnian Serb forces killed up to 8,000 Muslims in the worst atrocity in Europe since the Second World War.

In Berlin, Judge Richard Goldstone, the chief UN war crimes prosecutor, said the failure of Western powers to order the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, his military commander, was "unacceptable".

Tobacco tax leaves Spaniards fuming

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A TOBACCO war has erupted in Spain as thousands of kiosk owners, enraged by "an abuse of power" by the state-owned tobacco monopoly, threatened yesterday to slam down shutters on every street corner and go on strike.

If their threat is carried out, life will become unbearable for nearly 40 per cent of the population, last year's official figure for those who smoke a packet of cigarettes more a day, making Spain the country with the highest per capita consumption of cigarettes in the European Union.

Seeds of the dispute between Tabacalera, the state tobacco company which controls distribution in Spain, and the kiosk owners, or *estancieros*, were sown on Friday when the Government announced a sharp increase in cigarette tax. The increase, which takes effect tomorrow, means that a packet of Marlboro will cost £1.75, a rise of 25p. The price of a packet of Ducados — the rasping cigarette that is Spain's most popular brand — will soar to 85p, an increase of nearly 20 per cent.

Kiosk owners, not surprisingly, were rubbing their hands in anticipation of a few days of panic buying. Long early-morning queues had, in fact, formed at tobacco kiosks all over Madrid the day after the tax announcement, with people buying several cartons each of their favourite brand.

Yet Tabacalera, fearing that many buyers were not bona fide smokers but "obvious speculators and profiteers", refused to replenish stocks at empty kiosks, leaving their owners fuming. New stocks, Tabacalera said, would arrive just before the new prices come into force.

The National Association of Tobacco Retailers is speaking ominously of strike action if "adequate compensation" is not paid. The Organisation of Tobacco Consumers has also attacked the state monopoly, accusing it of "wanting to have its cake and eat it too".

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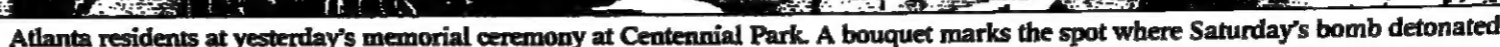
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FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Simon Jenkins, page 14



**FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN ATLANTA**

Nick Tarlton, 17, a Londoner at the Games, said: "This is showing the world that Atlanta is back. It's great."

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

Leading article, page 15

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Perry: wants Saudis to bear cost of troop move

By Ian Brodie

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Sex has always been a commodity, but it may not be legally bought or sold

chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, suggested that the chief constable's proposals would lead to a moral decline in our country. A weakening of its fabric. But how often in our society is money used to mollify our moral conscience? Our Government sells arms in return for aid to developing nations. Our MPs take cash for questions. Only last week it was revealed that large financial donations secured businessmen invitations to dine with Cabinet ministers, and the Labour Party similarly has its "Thousand Club".

Ironical parallels have been drawn between politics and prostitution ever since Old Testament days. When Joshua sent two men out to spy upon



**Rachel
Campbell-Johnston**

Prostitution represents the exploitation of the impoverished female by the affluent male. Its continuing existence is a sad reflection of how little impact civilisation has had upon the human race. But it is a vice which cannot simply be stamped out. The question we must now ask ourselves is not so much whether or not we approve of it but whether, without condoning or promoting it, we can make provision for it in our society.

Under existing legislation the British take peevishly virtuous stance. Although it is illegal for a prostitute to ply her trade in a public place, a woman selling sex on her own premises is not breaking the law. Only when two or more women work from a private property is it deemed illegal. Nonetheless, police often choose to turn a blind eye. Although they periodically clamp down on streetwalkers and brothels, this is only ever a short-term, localised measure because it merely displaces the problem.

Mr Hellawell's statement confronts the hypocrisy of such double standards. Since the existence of prostitution must be acknowledged, we should consider the ways in which it can be accommodated while minimising the problems that it brings. We should look towards the more candid and mature attitudes of nations such as Sweden, Germany or Holland.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, MP,

the city of Jericho, they took lodging with the harlot Rahab, who, impressed by the Israelites' victories east of the Jordan, was prepared to collude with them. She hid them among the stalks of flax on her roof and later lowered them on a rope out of her window within the city wall. In return they promised that, if she marked her house with a scarlet thread, she and her household would be spared when the city was taken.

Sex has always been a form of currency in our society, and it is no longer affordably simply to show moral approbation. How many women calculate their marriages in coldly financial terms? How many children suffer when these marriages break up? A prostitute merely counts fronts, more brutally than most, a moral corollary to her work in our society. Even organisations like the Women's Institute, the traditional bastion of moral values and jam-making, are now prepared to put aside their primness and preserves and to debate whether or not

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing two individuals in a dark, enclosed space. One person is standing on the left, wearing a light-colored shirt and pants. The other person is lying down in the center, also wearing light-colored clothing. A bright, rectangular object, possibly a screen or a piece of paper, is visible on the right side of the frame.

Prostitutes on the street attract kerb-crawlers and drug dealers, disrupt neighbourhoods and distract police from other duties. Legal brothels would address these problems

prostitution should be legalised. Just two months ago in Cumbria, members of the Distington and Keekle WI passed a motion calling for the licensing of brothels.

Licensing would, primarily, help to protect prostitutes, who are as much entitled to support as the men who

**'It is a vice
which
cannot
simply be
stamped
out'**

Were brothels to be legalised they could be run collectively by the women who work in them. Health and safety could be more carefully monitored and although licensing would involve tax payments, financial independence from brokering middlemen would in many cases more than make up the difference.

But perhaps most importantly, the licensing of brothels would make the streets safer. In unofficial red-light districts such as Birmingham's Balsall Heath, Bradford's Lumb Lane or London's King's Cross, local communities find themselves under assault. Kerb crawlers are a traffic hazard. Female pedestrians are subjected to distressing harassment. If prostitutes were encouraged not to operate on the streets, it would free police to patrol these areas better. I live in a red-light district, where most of the women operate from rented rooms

and contact is made with clients through telephone box calling cards. Since little business is conducted on the streets, in two years I have never once felt unsafe.

Prostitutes fulfill a legitimate role in our culture. Society evidently has a need for the services they offer, whether it is the rite-of-passage trip of a young man or the chance of sexual satisfaction for the elderly, the widowed or those who suffer some physi-

cal impairment and who may find it more difficult to find a partner in other ways. Women can manifest a decline in libido as they grow older, especially after having children. Men more usually do not. I certainly would prefer it if my partner visited a prostitute with whom he had no emotional relationship, than embarked upon a protracted affair with another woman, involving all concerned in a network of lies of deception.

To deny the inevitability of brothels reverts to the hypocrisy of a Victorian age, when facades of order and propriety overlaid the anarchic realities of street life. If brothels were accepted — though not necessarily promoted — more men might feel they could visit them. We might witness a consequent decline in failed marriages, rape cases and sexual abuse of children.

Ours is an age in which sex has all too often been divorced

from love. It has become a commodity, used to sell anything from ice-cream to cars, from cigarettes to holidays. Our appetite is constantly stimulated.

Sex is presented as a paramount need, a proof of glamour and success. It is not mere prudishness, it is positively irresponsible to create, nurture and profit from this need without realistically exploring all the ways in which it can be met.

Ours is an age in which sex has all too often been divorced

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SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

THE dining room is dimly lit and elegant, the salmon soufflé exquisite, the conversation restrained, the ladies charming. The butler shimmers into view at your elbow, bald pate winking in the candlelight.

"Would sir care for a drop of Cat's Pee on a Gooseberry Bush?" he intones. The shocked silence is misplaced, for this is a New World savignino from New Zealand and available for about a fiver from Victoria Wine.

from Victoria wine. At first hearing, it may sound like a typical piece of antipodean slang for a nasty drink — the flip side of the amber nectar — but, says Julian Eggar of Ehrmann Group, which imports the wine: "It is a term widely used to describe the bouquet of a sauvignon. The grower just thought why not name a wine after it and stick it on the label with a naughty-looking cat?"

Why not, indeed. For years all you saw on a bottle was a vineyard name, invariably French and unfamiliar, and a date. But then came the British wine revolution, and after a transitional period in

after a transitional period in the late 1960s and early 1970s suddenly the wines were called chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon or riesling. The rankiest plet at least knew the grape variety, and the names became more prosaic — the mystique was shattered.

Thus it is that you will find in Oddbins a bottle called

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IN THE DOCK

Judges, not ministers, should mend their ways

It is a far from dignified posture for a Home Secretary to be permanently at loggerheads with the judiciary. It is regrettable that the Court of Appeal yesterday found the Home Secretary to have acted unjustly in setting a minimum sentence of 15 years for the killers of James Bulger. It is the latest in a series of reverses for Mr Howard. As the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, remarked, public disagreement between ministers and judges can "only tend to undermine the public confidence in the criminal justice system".

But Lord Woolf and his colleagues on the bench should consider the cause of the conflict. The Home Secretary has acted as he has in the Bulger case, and provoked judicial displeasure, only because the judges themselves have failed. The erosion of public confidence in the justice system owes more to a series of over-lenient sentences than any of Mr Howard's actions. He is right and the judges are wrong, and nowhere more so than in the tragic Bulger case.

The murder of James Bulger at the hands of two schoolchildren was a crime of unique horror. Mr Justice Morland, the judge at the trial of the killers, Venables and Thompson, described their crime as an "act of unparalleled evil and barbarity". Such an act demanded an exceptional response.

But Mr Justice Morland failed to match the stringency of his words with the severity of his sentence. He recommended that Thomson and Venables spend a minimum of only eight years in custody. That was subsequently revised upwards to ten years by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor. That was just inadequate. Only when Mr Howard insisted on a tariff of 15 years was natural justice seen to be done.

Lord Woolf and his colleagues, wisely, accepted that retribution should play a part in the sentencing of juveniles like Venables and Thomson who are over the age of criminal responsibility. They also accepted that the Home Secretary is within his rights

to set the tariff. But exception was taken to the role Mr Howard assigned to public pressure, in the shape of petitions, in fixing the sentence.

Lord Woolf argued that the original sentence took into account the need to maintain public confidence in the judicial system and Mr Howard's genuflection to popular feeling could have resulted "in double accounting". But, whatever the trial judge's intention, his sentence clearly did not command public confidence. The scale and intensity of public feeling in favour of a stronger sentence could only be ignored by a Government insensitive to public faith in the administration of justice.

When the death penalty was abolished Parliament made a compact with the people that their representatives would have the right to insist on a basement for sentences in certain capital crimes. By taking public feeling into account in the Bulger case Mr Howard was not bending to the roar of the mob but weighing in the balance the public support for the courts on which the rule of law ultimately depends.

In considering how the Home Secretary should exercise his discretion, the House of Lords has said that the minister must "have regard to broader considerations of public character than those which apply to an ordinary sentencing function". Mr Howard had regard to those factors, and in so doing acted not in defiance of the law but as a shrewd guardian of its reputation than some on the bench. It is a pity that this matter did not end with Mr Howard's decision. Appeals have only prolonged the pain of the victim's relatives and will have done nothing to incline the public's hearts towards mercy in the future for the killers. If there is anything to be gained from the rehearsal of these arguments again it can only be a reinforcement of the importance of allowing the public to be heard when their sense of justice is grievously offended.

DEFEAT FOR IRAQ

Turkey remains, reluctantly, loyal to the allied coalition

Since he was driven out of Kuwait but not out of power in 1991, President Saddam Hussein's strategy for dealing with the West has been based on two assumptions. The first is that the West would eventually tire of the military cost of containing Iraq and would relax their guard. The second is that the longer he remained in power in defiance of international sanctions and internal unrest, the readier Iraq's neighbours would be to conclude that the course of prudence lay in normalising relations with his regime.

For both these reasons, yesterday's vote in the Turkish Parliament was psychologically and politically important. The mandate for Operation Provide Comfort, the allied mission which protects Iraq's four million Kurds against attack from Baghdad, was due to expire today. The use of the southern Turkish base at Incirlik is crucial to its effectiveness; the alternatives, flights from Jordan or Cyprus, would not only be vastly more expensive but would depend on Syria's permission to overfly its territory.

Before he took office last month Necmettin Erbakan, the new Prime Minister and leader of the Islamist Refah (Welfare) Party, denounced the allied use of Incirlik as "an infidel invasion force" and vowed to terminate the mandate. Had he not abruptly changed his mind — and succeeded in persuading anti-Western Islamist MPs to vote yesterday for its extension — Saddam would have scored his first significant political victory against the international coalition ranged against him.

Operation Provide Comfort was mounted in April 1991, when Saddam crushed an uprising by Iraq's Kurds, forcing two million refugees across the borders into Turkey and Iran. The West's response was a massive

relief programme backed by a no-fly zone, policed by American, French and British air forces, prohibiting Iraqi flights north of the 36th parallel. The operation has never been popular in Turkey, which has for 12 years been confronting its own Kurdish separatists, the PKK, and which objected to the possible precedents created by this protective umbrella over Kurdish-inhabited Iraq.

Up to now these objections had been outweighed by Turkey's determination to play its full part in the international effort to curb Saddam, and above all by the priority it attached to its close alliance with America and its membership of Nato. But Mr Erbakan and his party, whose platform is both anti-Nato and derivative of Turkey's Western policies, have denounced Provide Comfort as a Western plot to reimpose by stealth the 1920 Treaty of Sevres, which envisaged an independent Kurdistan.

This Government is the first to be led by a religious party since Atatürk founded the modern, secular republic. This was an early test of whether government would moderate Refah's rhetoric. Mr Erbakan claims to have been convinced that the real purpose of Provide Comfort is to prevent a renewed rush of Kurdish refugees into Turkey. So it is, in part — but the more likely explanation is that America left him in no doubt that he risked a massive crisis in Turkey's relations with Washington. Turkey's military command has no intention of jeopardising them. The army is also fiercely protective of Turkey's secular constitution; and there have been three military coups in postwar Turkey, in 1960, 1971 and 1980. At home as well as abroad, Mr Erbakan is on probation. For the purposes of maintaining pressure on Iraq, it is just as well that he knows it.

THE DIG OF BINYAMIN

Canaanites: sound at multiplication, but weak in Scripture

These are the excavations of the children of Israel, which went forth out of Hebrew University to dig in the land of Canaan.

2. And they dug up the City of Hazer, yea that mighty city of Canaan the son of Harn; and Canaan was the patriarch of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and the Hezballah, and other heathen that furiously rage together.

3. For verily, as it is written in the Book of Netanyahu: Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

4. Were the only two that ever got through to the land of milk and honey.

5. And Joshua at that time (about 1250 BC) turned back, and took Hazer, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazer beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms. And mighty was his smiting.

6. And the generations of the Hazer dig correspond to the account in Joshua.

7. But now Professor Amnon Ben-Tor of Hebrew University followeth in the footsteps of Joshua to the land flowing with milk and honey, with a mighty host of archaeologists, volunteers and scribes from the Associated Press, Reuters and The Times.

8. And they have uncovered four tablets of clay no bigger than the palm of a man's hand, which go back four score and forty years, generations to the days of Abraham, when patriarchs roamed the Promised Land. For patriarchs were giants in those days.

9. And thereon this is the writing that is written on the tablets of clay in the lost Akkadian wedge-letters of the Canaanites and, to avoid repetition of Hivites and Hittites, all the rest of the raging heathen.

10. One of the tablets is a lawyers' document, whereon is written that A telleth B that C is a liar: so what else is new under the sun?

11. For it is written that ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country.

12. And another tablet listeth the tin and silver, the gold and precious stones sent from Hazer unto Mari, the mighty city of the Canaanites in Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abomination of the Earth.

13. And yet a third tablet setteth forth multiplication tables, showing that the Canaanites were primitive accountants.

14. The Hivites were quango warriors and fat cats. For multiplication is veneration, division is as bad; the Rule of Three doth puzzle me, and Practice drives me mad.

15. Now these tablets from Hazer come from the royal palace of the King of the Canaanites, and Ben-Tor declareth that they are the most important of all documents ever found in the land of milk and honey.

16. Be that as it may, and Ben-Tor would wouldn't he? Those Canaanites may have been skilful at mathematics; but they can never recover their rightful place in history, because they lack Holy Scripture, especially as translated in the Authorised Version.

Decision time on single currency

From Mr Christopher Johnson

Sir, John Redwood ("A single currency won't wait", July 27) does not want to wait until after the general election to open up the debate on whether the UK should join the single currency. I agree with him, even though our conclusions would differ.

The Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons yesterday published its report, *The Prospects for Stage Three of EMU*, with annexes by myself and two other specialist advisers detailing the arguments for and against UK membership of the single currency.

The Government should now initiate a White Paper setting out objectively the arguments for and against, to be published in the autumn. In this way, the issues could be openly debated. No political party would need to reach a conclusion before the election, and whichever party was elected could take a decision in 1997 against a background of public information rather than the ignorance to which many people now confess.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

(Author, *In with the Euro*, *Out with the Pound*, Penguin, 1996), 39 Wood Lane, N6, July 30.

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, John Major (report and interview, July 25) is quite right to refuse to decide in advance whether Britain will agree to join the European single currency area when the European Union goes over to having one stable money throughout the EU. Not only does this enable Britain to influence the future shape of European economic and monetary union (EMU), but it also gives British ministers a stronger negotiating hand. They can threaten that Britain will not join if it does not get its way on some key points, whereas if it says in advance that it will not join its views would not even be considered.

However, why does the Government not want a full, frank and open debate about the pros and cons of a single currency? Having one stable money throughout Europe, or at least in those countries having stable enough economies to be able to join EMU, will indeed be "the most important single decision that Europe and this country will take for many years", as the PM said in his interview.

So why did Britain turn down the money offered by the European Union last April to finance an information campaign about a single currency? Other EU countries like Germany have been happy enough to accept it. It is only if British MPs and the general public are fully informed that misunderstandings can be avoided and the country will accept — perhaps after a referendum — Parliament's decision to join or not to join.

Screaming headlines and snappy soundbites are no substitute for full and informed debate.

Yours faithfully,

J. SZEMEREY,

76 Marnixlaan,

B-3090 Overijse, Belgium.

From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir, The single currency inevitably entails a single balance sheet covering the whole of Europe. On that balance sheet there will appear for the first time the consolidated 15-nation figure for their total unfunded governmental pension debts at a stupefying £10 billion. This will be expressed, of course, in euros.

Because in Britain many pension entitlements have traditionally been funded, or they are self-contributory throughout the beneficiaries' working life, 99.7 per cent of this accumulated mountain of obscene irresponsibility was not even incurred by us. It lies at the doors of our 14 "partners", overwhelmingly due to decades of reckless vote-mongering by French, German and Italian politicians.

Each new British child is today born saddled with a combined national and unfunded pension debt of £9,000. Under the single currency, however, that same child would inherit not only a *per caput* debt of some £39,000 but the lifelong prospect of swinging levels of taxation to bail out unfunded pensioners from other EU countries.

Yet still none of the major parties (even Mr Major's which, thank heavens, in December 1991 secured a British opt-out) will denounce the euro in advance of its planned imposition on December 31, 1998. Any party which fails to end its ambivalence at its 1996 party conference will become deservedly and, one hopes, permanently unelectable.

Yours faithfully,

NORRIS MCWHIRTER (Chairman),

The Freedom Association,

35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.

From Mr William Hall

Sir, Your leader today, "Off the fence", argues that a decision on the single currency can no longer be deferred.

It can and probably will be. Both Mr Major and Mr Blair will, I suspect, move heaven and earth to ensure that this issue is kept out of their general election campaign. Whoever wins will then claim a bogus mandate to lead the country kicking and squealing into EMU.

Yours sincerely,

W. HALL,

68 Bridge Lane,

Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

July 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Catholic criticism of the Queen

From the Reverend Dr J. P. O. Barry

Sir, William Oddie's attack on Her Majesty the Queen (reports, July 25, 27; letters, July 27), suggesting that she has "been seen openly to abandon the belief that marriage is indissoluble", is simply incorrect.

I doubt very much if the Queen, as an Anglican, ever held that marriage is indissoluble. However, while it is true that marriage ought to be indissoluble, as the Church Fathers taught, it is quite wrong to proceed to argue, as Mr Oddie does, that marriage cannot be broken.

I am sure that most people realise and regret that many marriages break down. Alas, the Prince and Princess of Wales are not alone. In her encouragement of their divorce, the Queen displays the honesty of the Anglican tradition which she must uphold. The marriage of Charles and Diana existed in name alone. The whole world perceived that essential fact. How the sanctity of Christian marriage would have been better served by insisting that the couple remain married in public, whatever

their behaviour in private, escapes me.

Had the Queen indeed insisted on the latter, as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England she would have been vulnerable to the charge of hypocrisy.

Yours faithfully,

JONATHAN BARRY,

The Rectory,

Comber, Co Down.

July 27.

From Mr J. Lovatt

Sir, The Dean of St Paul's (report, July 27) now puts his case against Dr Oddie's comments. Anglican leaders must realise that in attempting to become fashionable, bending to whims of minorities and making unnecessary changes to the scriptures, they are losing their lams and sense of direction.

Yours sincerely,

J. LOVATT,

Grant House, 19 Hollam Drive,

Dulverton, Somerset.

July 27.

Involving citizens in Ulster solution

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, There is nothing new in politics. The plans for Northern Ireland which Airey Neave drew up before the 1979 election (with some small assistance from me in Chris Patten's Conservative Research Department) were virtually identical to the proposals put forward by David Trimble ("The politics of the attainable", July 25).

The Neave plan was summarised in the Conservative election manifesto of 1979: "... we will seek to establish one or more elected regional councils with a wide range of powers over local services". I expanded on this commitment in briefing notes which were circulated to Conservative candidates on April 25, 1979. They stressed that the chief objective of our plans was to "involve all sections of the population, regardless of their political outlook, more closely in the running of local affairs".

Like David Trimble, Airey Neave believed above all that the people of Northern Ireland should be able to take the issues which affect their everyday lives to locally elected representatives, as they can in the rest of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. There is nothing narrow or bigoted in a true Conservative and Unionist prescription for Ulster.

Yours faithfully,

ALISTAIR B. COOKE

(Chairman of the Trustees),

Friends of the Union,

PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF.

From Mr N. J. Mustoe

Sir, Two of your correspondents today suggest that the solution to the trouble

in Ireland could be for the majority of the population of Ulster to be repatriated to Britain. Presumably they both wish to find a solution that causes the least suffering.

On the contrary, their solution would involve the uprooting of a million people, torn from the land their fathers have handed down to them for hundreds of years. This pain and anguish would be halved, if the Irish minority of half a million was expelled to the South. According to your correspondents' rules, this should be a perfectly logical answer.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MUSTOE,

Blackthorn Cottage,

20 Cross End,

Thurleigh, Bedfordshire.

July 22.

From Mrs Verna Middleton

Sir, How kind and considerate your readers Mr Winston Fletcher and Mr L. Gilbert are (letters, July 22).

For 25 years here in Northern Ireland the majority of law-abiding, peace-loving citizens have endured civil unrest, murder, massive destruction of our towns and cities and acts of terror that have frequently reduced us to tears.

Now it appears that from peaceful southern England your armchair politicians are to resettle a large population — whether we wish to go or not. I might therefore to triumph over right? Where pray are we all to go?

Yours faithfully,

VERNA MIDDLETON,

9 Upper Knockbreds Road, Belfast.

July 22.

Tamil resistance

From Mr R. M. Withana

Sir, Your leading article of July 23, "Defeat for peace", and the subsequent news items of the Mullativu battle and the horrific details of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) bomb in a passenger train (report, July 25) focused on the continuing tragedy of Sri Lanka.

The tragedy, more for the helpless Tamils in the north and the east (as pointed out in your leader), could continue, as long as Tamils in the UK and other Western countries like Mr S. Pothalingam and Mr M. Thiagarajan (letters, July 25) glorify the LTTE as saviours of the Tamils.

The LTTE has proved itself interested only in ruthlessly crushing any other Tamil views and controlling the Tamil-populated areas by totalitarian means, including the filling of their dwindling combat ranks by coercion. The fact that it has more than once spurned political dialogue with Sri

Lankan governments and unilaterally broken ceasefires to resume terrorism and violence is an indication of LTTE's real nature.

You are therefore right to state in your leading article that "isolating the LTTE is important". Regrettably such isolation will be made more difficult if the Tamil expatriates continue to fund and support the LTTE.

Finally, the raising of the Sri Lankan flag in Jaffna was not, as stated by Mr Pothalingam, to "humiliate the Tamils", but an expression of the Government's sovereignty over and responsibility for the welfare of the nation's citizens in Jaffna (discharged under trying conditions).

The military onslaught was not the creation of the Government but an action which any government would have to take if its territory and subjects are threatened by armed groups.

Yours etc,

R. M. WITHANA,

34 Little Borne, Dulwich, SE21.

July 25.

Moving on

From the Editor of The Sunday Telegraph

Sir, Your diarist is mistaken (July 26). It was not my idea that Mr Ian Hargreaves should stop his column for *The Sunday Telegraph*. When he became Editor of *The New Statesman* at the end of April, he told me he wanted to concentrate on rescuing that publication. We agreed that he would continue with his column until I could find a suitable replacement. That has now happened. In fact it happened four weeks ago. Congratulations on being first with the news.

Yours faithfully,

DOMINIC LAWSON, Editor,

The Sunday Telegraph,

1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, E14.

July 30.

Does the cap fit?

From Mr G. Greenslade

Sir, With reference to your story and photograph (July 26) of a recovered 4ft pet iguana resting on a police cap, I would be most interested to see a photograph of the cap owner's head (or perhaps the iguana's tail).

Yours sincerely,

G. GREENSLADE,

193 Whitechapel Road, E1.

July 26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Future of in-vitro fertilisation rules

From the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow,

Cardinal Thomas Winning,

and others

Sir, From August 1, NHS and private fertility units up and down the country will be required by statute to start disposing of some 3,000 embryonic human beings generated by in-vitro fertilisation who have spent five years in deep-freezers but whose parents, for one reason or another, can no longer be traced (reports and letter, July 25).

Moreover, since a proportion of the parents of the remaining 50,000 embryos currently frozen will also lose contact with the clinics concerned, the eventual total of human beings facing deliberate destruction is likely, in our view, to be considerably larger than 3,000.

Since this lamentable situation arises from the policy of allowing embryos to be created in far greater numbers than it is intended should implant immediately, we urge two things: first, that the body responsible for overseeing assisted conception programmes, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, forthwith requires that embryos no longer be created in greater numbers than are wanted for immediate implantation; secondly, that legislation be passed banning both the creation and freezing of excess embryos.

These measures, while not delivering us from our present dilemma, would spare us in the future the more conspicuously repugnant aspects of IVF programmes.

Yours truly,

THOMAS J. CARD, WINNING

(Chairman, Catholic Bishops' Joint Committee on Bio-Ethical Issues).

MICHAEL BANNER

(King's College, London).

LUKE GORMALLY

(Linacre Centre).

JOHN HALDANE

(University of St Andrews).

OLIVER O'DONOVAN

(Christ Church, Oxford).

JOSEPHINE QUINTAVALLE

(Comment on Reproductive Ethics (CORE)).

c/o CORE,

PO Box 4593, London SW3 6XE.

July 30.

Cabbies' hours

From Mr Gerry Orme

Sir, As a professional driver and vehicle operator, I would be in serious trouble if, like the black-cab driver hired by South West Trains to take a stranded woman home from Waterloo (report, later editions, July 25), I had worked an eight-hour shift and then driven to Dundee.

Are black-cab drivers not subject to the same hours restrictions as other commercial drivers?

Yours etc,

GERRY ORME

(Director),

Transgo International,

14 South Street,

Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leicestershire.

July 26.

Women 'kept out'?

Now noisy neighbours may face the music

Rachel Kelly gives useful advice on solving disputes with those next door and properties to avoid

A last, respire is here for those harassed by noisy neighbours. Offenders are now liable to £100 on-the-spot fines under a new law. The Noise Bill, which received the Queen's Assent last week, will curb loud music between 11pm and 7am. Hi-fi equipment can be confiscated and there is a maximum £1,000 fine in cases that come to court.

Those questioning for peace should contact the environmental health department of their local council and prove that the noise is a "statutory nuisance", that it stops them from enjoying their homes or affects their health.

If poor insulation is to blame, the environmental health officer can serve a notice on the property owner demanding improvements. Councils in England and Wales can use the new law at their discretion to tackle noise complaints, which more than trebled between 1983 and 1993. Nationally, councils receive about 300 calls a day about unacceptable noise levels.

Environment ministers have promised that the voluntary approach will be reviewed in two years. Councils might then be forced to adopt its regulations.

Such change might seem of minor importance, but in the past year alone there have

been three killings, one suicide, several arson attacks and thousands of fights after disputes about noise between neighbours. Only this week a woman admitted breaking down the door of the church next door to silence the bells and a fence dispute was settled with a chainsaw.

As G.K. Chesterton wrote, neighbourly disputes come in many guises. "Your next door neighbour is not a man; he is an environment. He is the noise of a piano; he is a dispute about a party wall; he is drains that are worse than yours; or roses that are better."

The ideal is clearly to avoid bad neighbours in the first place. Howard Elston, from the agency Chesterfield, advises: "Visit the house you are considering as many times as is reasonable and at varying times of the day. Talk to the milkman and newsagent. Check the number of bells on neighbouring front doors to see if the house is divided into flats, which could be noisier."

Beware pubs, nightclubs and football stadiums, says Nicholas Pearce from the London

agents Beany Pearce. Amazingly, sellers often open up about potential nightmares. He says: "Do always ask."

The biggest myth of town-dwellers is that the country is peaceful. Rupert Bradstock from the buying agents Property Vision says: "Be careful not to buy near to a farm with cockerels or downwind from a pig-farm. Stud farms, racing stables and dairies all start at the crack of dawn, putting paid to any lie-ins."

Should problems become unavoidable, the Consumers' Association advises homeowners to tackle problems early. Keep a detailed diary of the times and dates of incidents and get statements from other neighbours as corroborating evidence.

Other disputes involve construction work. If such work inadvertently damages your house, photographs and the evidence of a surveyor's report could help prove your case. The neighbour's third party insurance should cover the cost of the claim.

A magistrates' court order can ensure that a savage dog is kept muzzled, on a lead,

neutered or destroyed if it has behaved dangerously in a public place. Under the Dangerous Dogs Act, an owner can be fined up to £5,000.

The Party Wall Act, which became law last month, means that homeowners embarking on work on a shared wall will be legally bound to first inform their neighbours, to give them the chance, if they wish, to appoint a surveyor before work starts.

Should problems still arise, employ a solicitor. Avoid court cases if at all possible because of the prohibitive costs and check your house and contents insurance to see if it includes the cost of legal expenses for disputes or damages.

Tony Billingham, director of Mediation UK, a charity which helps resolve disputes, agrees that if at all possible, avoid the law. "In many cases disputes can be more satisfactorily resolved without the law, which could stop neighbours from getting on."

"Most noisy neighbours don't know that they are making a noise or causing a problem. In many instances the complainants have not spoken to their neighbours about the noise. They call the police instead."

Mediation UK: 0177 934 1234



Val Gibson: she was forced to move house to find peace

HI-FI MADE MY LIFE HELL

VAL GIBSON, 45, is among those who have campaigned for a change in the law and is setting up Noise Network for sufferers, writes Amanda Loose.

She and her husband, Phil Weedon, moved from their family home in Thamesmead, South London, five years ago after suffering from a noisy woman neighbour who persistently played loud music for a year.

Ms Gibson still cannot sit out in her garden when she hears even a faint background noise. "I get a sick feeling and my stomach turns over. I am still very sensitive to noise even now," she says.

"It destroyed my life. My husband and I both worked from home and the noise would start at 9am, as soon as her children had gone to school, and would go on at the weekend as well. We spoke to her many times and my husband even showed her what an acceptable volume level would be."

"She agreed, but the next day she turned the music up again. Sometimes she turned it up and down, and we could hear her laughing. She would play one song over and over again: often it was Lisa Stansfield's *All around the*

World. It was her way of having control over us."

Ms Gibson became ill, but she was told by her local authority that they could do nothing because the noise was intermittent. The music would stop for a few hours, then return with a vengeance. "When you are forced to listen to something you don't want to, it wears you down. The body can only stand so much. I became very depressed and suffered from bouts of shingles. Even when the noise stopped, we were waiting for it to start again."

In the past five years Ms Gibson has been actively involved in campaigning for noise legislation, through the Right to Peace and Quiet Society and also as an individual. She is relieved that the Noise Bill has got through, but feels that there is still some way to go.

"It's a great achievement, but the legislation will control only specific areas of noise pollution at the moment," she says. "Because it relates to night nuisances between 11pm and 7am. It is also an adoptive law, which means that local authorities can choose not to apply it. But I think the main benefit is that it will act as a deterrent."

Tom Walker climbs on board two very different ways of life on the water in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, where rents are some of the highest in the world, there is one simple answer to cutting the cost of accommodation: live on a boat and if you don't like it, when the Chinese take over next June, then just sail away.

Andy Rymer, 23, has chosen to do just that and lives on a Chinese junk in Aberdeen Harbour. As an engineer he is among hundreds of young foreign professionals seeking to kickstart their careers by eschewing the recession in Europe for the land where the jackhammer never falls silent on the building sites.

This modern on-berk generation is far removed from their pampered predecessors — gone is the expatriate allowance, sports club membership and free flights home. The new arrivals are having to do it the hard way.

The exact number of "European boat people" is unclear,

Pull up a plank and sit down

but given that there are six recognised marinas dotted around Hong Kong island and the New Territories, each with about 30 families living permanently in their craft, it is likely to be about 700.

Richer professionals see boats as a good investment. Rather than pay ridiculous sums of money to a landlord (rents of more than £6,000 a month for average flats are common), buying a boat that can be sold or sailed away when leaving Hong Kong makes sense.

Mr Rymer began his expatriate life in an infamous Kowloon boarding house. "Two of us lived in a room six feet by six feet," he says. "Anything is better than that."

Visiting Mr Rymer's junk, sandwiched in a festering

corner of Aberdeen Harbour, one is inclined to take him at his word. Access, through the Wing Shing marine repair yard, is hazardous as Mr Wing has a side-business in dismantling double-decker buses. Reaching the gang-plank involves clambering through razor-sharp shards of discarded metal.

"There are a few good things to it," reflects Mr Rymer, searching for inspiration in a marine version of the home shared by *The Young Ones*. "There's quite a lot of room on board, and no one has fallen in yet."

That certainly is just as well because Aberdeen harbour consists of a fearsome soup from the outpourings of China's southern industry. The junk cost its enterprising expa-

triate owner HK\$120,000 (about £10,000). Mr Rymer and his three boatmates each pay a monthly rent of HK\$1,500 (£125), a quarter of the minimum outlay needed for just a room in the pokiest of flats.

Water is provided courtesy of Mr Wing. Electricity comes from a rival boatyard, and is sometimes cut off.

The phone line was disconnected months ago. There is a microwave, but it consumes too much power. A few weeks ago the junk foundered during a midnight downpour, and one of Mr Rymer's boatmates woke to find his shoes floating past his pillow. "We've all had enough," he confesses.

Over on the east coast of the New Territories, boat life is rather different. Brian Ren-

wick was for nine years head of personnel at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank before retiring last June at the age of 56 — three years over the bank's retirement limit. Mr Renwick wanted to start his own Hong Kong-based personnel consultancy, and certainly did not wish to hand his savings to a landlord.

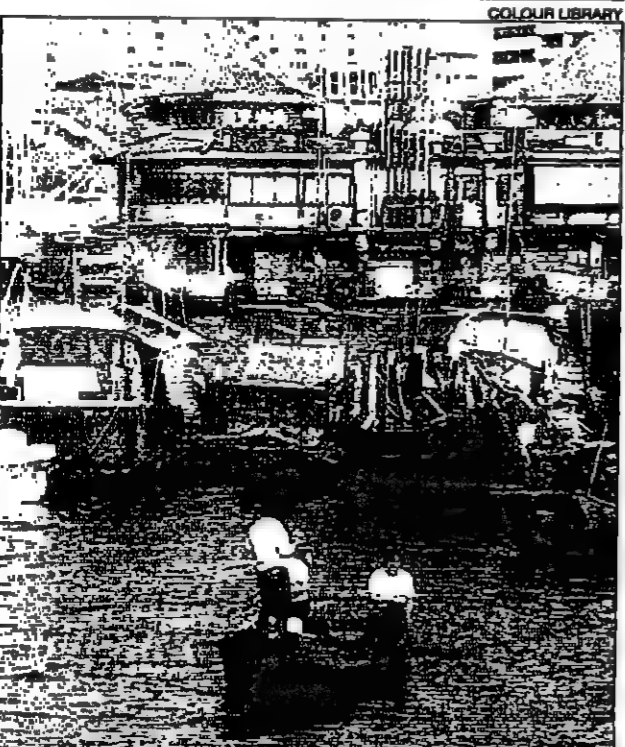
As a sailing fanatic a boat was the obvious answer, as it is to many executives and those who use their Hong Kong accommodation occasionally, such as Cathay Pacific airline pilots.

Of the 150 boats at his east coast marina, Mr Renwick can point to more than 20 that are lived on. He and his wife, Trisha, paid HK\$875,000 (£73,000) for their 48ft cruiser, which they are repaying in a

lease agreement to gain more tax relief. In addition they pay monthly mooring and club membership fees, giving them a total monthly payout of about HK\$30,000 (£2,500). "For that amount all you might get is a very moderate flat, but here is a nice environment, and an asset," he says.

The Renwicks' boat is as well equipped as any home. There is air conditioning, a fridge, freezer, cooker and microwave. As well as an office in town, Mr Renwick has a small cubby-hole in the bows of the boat where he surfs the Internet on a full-size monitor.

There are telephone and fax lines, provided along with water and electricity through a mooring point Mr Renwick describes as his "umbilical cord". Above all else, there is a sense of space and tranquillity unimaginable in the urban concentration of Hong Kong.



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CORBIERES VILLAGE
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Tel: 0171 49

Expletives must be protected or their force will fade

The dark magic of the F-word

Poor old *Kaleidoscope*. The worthy Radio 4 afternoon arts programme had been rapped on the knuckles by the Broadcasting Standards Council as if it were Chris Evans or *The Giltie Show*. The reason? During a live discussion one of its contributors let slip the word that is top of the BSC's list as most offensive to the public.

The continuing power of this centuries-old monosyllable is gratifying. Its shock value has not disappeared, despite the fears of people such as Paul Johnson that the bourgeoisie has adopted the language of the lower classes. Yet the F-word still strikes many people with the crack of a rifle shot and, thanks to the solitude of politicians, there's plenty they can do about it.

Britain expends an impressive amount of money and energy on preserving the taboo on bad language. Those worried citizens battling to save the BBC World Service might well envy the resources given to this smaller grievance. All that their cascade of letters and petitions has achieved is the formation of a joint BBC-Foreign Office committee to study, but not to delay, the changes. But a single complaint from an offended viewer or listener will send one or other arm of a vast regulatory machine into high gear.

Last week, in its July complaints bulletin reprimanding *Kaleidoscope*, the BSC refused to accept the programme's defence that the F-word had escaped under the pressure of a live broadcast. The council ruled that the "element of surprise would have added to the potential offence" as the complainant was listening with his children.

The same word brought a double ticking-off for Channel 4's *TFI Friday*, an early evening show with a large youthful following. The singer Shaun Ryder indulged in it twice. After the first occurrence on February 16 the presenter Chris Evans apologised. But then Ryder said it again in the course of performing a Sex Pistols lyric on March 22.

Now the BSC is not stocked with prudish, but with broadminded citizens such as Lady Howe and *The Times*'s Matthew Parris. They carry out the statutory obligations laid down by the Broadcasting Act of 1990. They do not ban the F-word outright. They upheld its use during the Channel 4 showing of *Peter's Friends* in February because it was on a minority channel after 9pm.

If further proof of verbal tolerance be needed, the BSC's June report dismisses complaints against "bollocks", "pissed", "bullshit" and "bugger off". It even forgets "shit" on *The Archers* on the ground that this word is not rated high on the BSC scale

of offensiveness, and also that it was used "in a moment of stress".

The hardest cases that come before the eight-member BSC involve the Christian holy names — sacred syllables to believers, prosaic exclamations to the rest. But the council lays down one absolute. It sees no justification for the use of the F-word before the 9pm watershed.

For that, may one say "thank God"? My plea to the broadcasters is to carry on deciding. We need our explosive words. If this wickedest of expletives is not to fade to the faint force of "fudge", it must be fenced round and protected like any other endangered turf. Would *Four Weddings and a Funeral* have got off to its brilliant start without the opening string of "F"s uttered in the well-bred tones of Hugh Grant?

Newspapers hardly have an easier time with this word. There is still no consensus about its printability. *The Times* favours, as above, the "F" formula. Some other papers go the whole hog. None to my knowledge is as prime as the good grey *New York Times* — "100 Years Old Next Month — God Bless Her" — which does not permit even coded allusion. When I tried to convey an Emma Thompson quote for that paper, I was asked to delete it entirely and substitute the separate sentence "She used a barnyard expletive" instead.

Why does the word retain its dark magic? It's been around long enough. The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives the year 1503 as its first citation for this transitive verb for sexual connection. I would have guessed it was older. During Victorian times the word went underground and did not really surface until 1922, when James Joyce got a French printer to set it in type for *Ulysses*.

Onomatopoeia is obviously the key to its staying power. The suggestive quality of the sound extends even to its common euphemism "suck". The merry Elizabethans were well aware of this. Their style of script, with the elongated "s" looking like an "f", allowed them the happy ambiguity of such lines as "Where the bee sucks, there suck I".

To be fair, there is a noun which is probably more taboo. Yet it ranks second on the BSC's list of "serious" bad language, and will never make it to the top. There are two difficulties with the C-word. It is nowhere near as all-purpose as the F-word, being unconvertible into a verb or an adjective. It is also uninteresting as a term of derision to at least half the population.



BRENDA MADDOX

Moving up and onwards

SINCE leaving what could arguably be described as the least enviable job in Britain, Dominique Vulliamy, the former press secretary to the Duchess of York, has not been idling away her new-found leisure time.

The amiable Ms Vulliamy has been busy scouring herself a job as producer of BBC's *Kilroy* and helpfully assisting *Guardian* journalists with their articles.

Currently, Ms Vulliamy can be found at Canary Wharf, where she has taken a temporary job as a junior features executive with the *Daily Mirror*, a newspaper no longer on the Duchess's Christmas card list.

It was the *Mirror* which printed the photographs of the Duchess receiving a peck from John Blyan, her financial advisor. The *Mirror* also got the exclusive that Ms



Ex-boss: Duchess of York

Vulliamy had quit her job with the Duchess.

● **GOOD news for staff at** The Observer who are pining for their dearly departed editor, Andrew Jaspur.

Thanks to a new career break Jaspur, banded out of his job in March after sitting in the editor's chair for a year and one week, will not be far away.

He is taking up the post of

managing editor and publisher of weekly magazine *The Big Issue*. Fortunately, the issue's offices in Clerkenwell Road, London, are less than spitting distance from The Observer's bunker for anyone who feels like buying him a welcome home drink.

Don't quote me

A LOT of huffing and puffing could be heard coming from Madeleine Pallas, LWT's no-nonsense press officer, this week. She was indignant about a "misleading" report in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* which claimed that Jeremy Beadle's programme, *Beadle's About* had been axed mid-series.

While extolling the virtues of the "high quality" prank show, Ms Pallas complained long and loud about scurrilous tabloid journalists whom she said "completely misrepresented the facts" and "make quotes up when they feel like it".

Strangely enough, Ms Pallas was, until recently, an established showbiz reporter on *The Sun* and the *Daily Star* and whose claim to fame



Victim? Jeremy Beadle

was a front-page splash in which she boasted "Gazza tried to chat me up".

Q'ing for a sniff

A NEW promotions gimmick has been causing consternation at high street newsagents.

Paco Rabanne is piloting a device — to promote its unisex fragrance, Paco — which will replace the sickly-smelling scent strips. The new system

called micro-encapsulation enables the perfume to be impregnated into the page but the smell is not released until the wrist is rubbed across it.

An unfortunate by-product, however, is that customers who fancy a free dab of perfume while browsing in Menzies are being observed furiously rubbing their wrists across Q magazine. "From a distance, especially from the rear, it can look quite obscene," says one sales assistant.

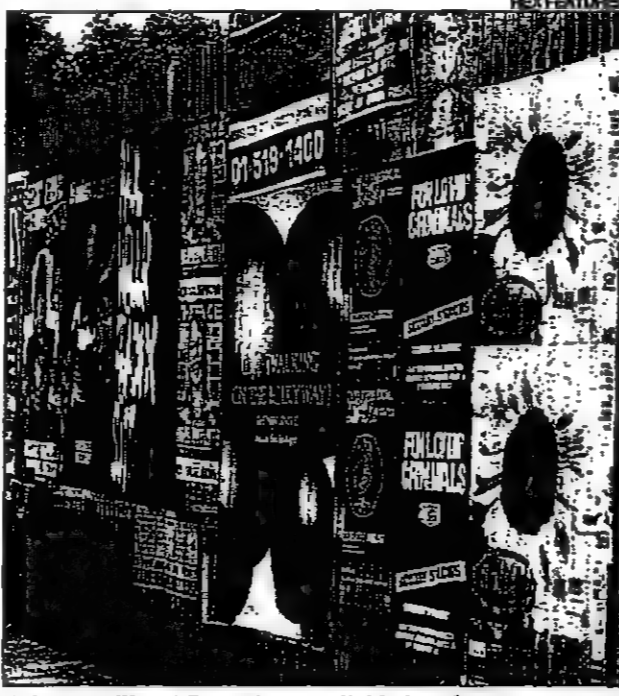
Careful Chris

COULD the Scottish air be getting to Chris Evans, presenter of Radio 1's *Breakfast Show*, who, for the past few days, has been broadcasting the show from Inverness.

Listeners have been treated to hearing Evans, one of Britain's highest paid entertainers, rant on about his staff's salaries and moan obsessively about paying for a plate of sandwiches in his hotel.

He also admitted that after filling up his hire car with petrol this week, he was so loathe to give it back with a half full tank that he "drove round in circles 17 times in first gear".

Taking death with a pinch of salt



Views on illegal flyposting are divided: wall art or eyesore

AVOID death, religion and bad language in your press and poster advertising if you do not want to offend the nation, says the Advertising Standards Authority in a hefty study published this week.

The independent research was commissioned in response to the increase in complaints about taste and decency in print ads. Last year's beefs filed with the ASA were up 33 per cent on 1994, while gripes are up a further 25 per cent so far this year.

Advertisers should also eschew using images of women as sex objects and bear in mind a developing sensitivity among men, with 15 per cent raising objections to the similar misuse of males.

Some findings were heartening. Almost 75 per cent say they are "entertained or amused" by press and poster ads, while 63 per cent even believe they are "educational and informative".

ADVERTISING

But lurking among the data is one specific statistic which agencies might wish to cover up pretty smartish. Seventy per cent of those polled said that all advertising should be "taken with a pinch of salt".

SEVERAL players within the outdoor advertising industry are trying to drum up support to get flyposting legalised, motivated by research which suggests the industry loses £35 million in revenue each year because of illegal sites.

The move, however, is not being universally supported. Francis Goodwin, managing editor of *Malden Outdoor* and a key industry figure, plans to fight it all the way. He feels strongly that trespassing cannot and should not be legalised adding that it is naive to assume that the £2.25 billion spent by advertis-

ers each year on pasting flyposters would necessarily cross over into far more expensive legitimate sites.

"If flyposting were legalised it would be a bit like getting your mum to organise a rave," he observed.

ADVERTISING folk, being of a creative bent, like to invent new vocabulary. Over recent weeks they have coined such mystifying terms as "tissue meetings", "footprint sessions" and "paradigm shifting" to impress clients and baffle rival agencies.

But now Howell Henry Chaldecott Lory, renowned for eschewing official job titles, is introducing a key term of his own. Its joint creative chief, Steve Henry, from now on wishes to be called "coach" rather than "creative partner". That's coach as in tutor, rather than National Express.

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The sounds of success

From ice-cream to fizzy drinks and motor cars, the compilation album has become the latest weapon in the advertiser's armoury, reports Carol Midgley

With Euro 96 now a fond but distant memory, negotiations are already under way to secure one of the most coveted sponsorship projects of World Cup 98. The discussions centre not on football players' strips, which razors they use, or who owns television rights, but on another area of sponsorship which is now becoming almost as lucrative — the theme music.

Consider the fact that virtually every man, woman and child who watched Euro 96 has heard the English anthem *Three Lions*, and it is obvious that, these days, if you want to get a message across, the way to the nation's heart is through its Sony Walkman.

Coca-Cola pulled off a masterstroke by bagging for itself the sponsorship of the official Euro 96 album *The Beautiful Game*, which immediately sprinted to the top ten in the compilation charts and, for a few weeks at least, became the bible of the young and streetwise.

But the growth of music as the new advertising medium is not confined simply to sport. Almost as though it has crept up on us when we were not looking, music has established itself as the most effective way to attach a "feel-good" factor to a product.

You may not have noticed, but a compilation CD, *Summer Vibes*, which recently streaked up the charts, came to you courtesy of Polygram and the orange drink, Sunkist.

Frustrated perhaps by its rival Tungs's stronghold on the teenage market, Sunkist decided it wanted to appeal to a younger clientele. The company wanted to capitalise on the summer weather to launch its new, fresher image and in June launched a double CD crammed with 40 "feel-good" tracks ranging from *Summer-time* by DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, to *Too Hot*, by Coolio. The arrangement suited Polygram, who wanted to sell to the same market.

The result? An instant hit, which meant that thousands of teenagers suddenly had a CD cover bearing Sunkist's logo (a smiling orange sun) on their bedroom shelves. Not only that, but 13 million cans of the drink also offered the chance to win a three-track sampler.

The opportunities to increase brand penetration in the music market are great: compilation albums make up 30 per cent of the record market. But because the concept is so new, research has yet to be done to determine how much the brand's name penetrates the consciousness of the purchaser.

Some of the advertising is so subtle that it is almost subliminal. The front cover of the *Unfaced* compilation



The sound of Häagen-Dazs: the ice-cream company's double CD was aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds and reached silver status in the charts

CD, for example, launched last year by Doc Martens footwear, simply depicts part of an unlaced boot and the names of the Britpop bands — Blur, Suede, Pulp — featured. Only the most meticulous would spot the tiny Doc Martens logo in the bottom left-hand corner on the back.

"You have to respect your audience — that is the golden rule," says Rick Blaskey, the man who masterminded the projects. "With *Unfaced*, the audience were young, streetwise, student types who have a cynicism about advertising that is too in-your-face."

Blaskey, a former record company and advertising executive, has created and virtually cornered the market with his London-based company Music & Media Partnership, which acts as a marriage broker between the brand and record managers.

With the company motto "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rocks or bend a

knotted oak", he has organised a string of successful "marriages". Blaskey reasoned that since people could still remember the "I'd like to teach the world to sing" advert for Coca-Cola from the 1970s, the power of music as an advertising device was awesome.

"Frankly, I'm amazed it hasn't been done before," he says. "Music can lift people and touch their souls like almost nothing else. Songs stay with people for life; they are the perfect marketing device."

"By combining music with brands, the brand is given an opportunity to reach its target audience — but in an environment it could never normally reach."

Häagen-Dazs jumped onto the bandwagon, launching a double CD with EMI full of smoochy love songs to complement the sheer indulgence image of the ice-cream. It was aimed at 18 to 35-year-old ABCs. The cover featured a photograph of two semi-

naked lovers spooning Häagen-Dazs into each others' mouths. It worked. The album reached silver status in the charts (sales of 60,000-plus). Häagen-Dazs says the sponsored CD fitted in with the company's offbeat image and was "a way of challenging our consumers to think of ice-cream in a different way."

For some music purists, the idea of creating an album to push a commercial product is anathema. One record company executive says: "We consider it all a bit naïf. To be credible with music, you have got to stay a bit rebellious. It doesn't work to treat music too commercially."

The most successful sponsored album to date is this year's *True Brit*, with Polygram and the Rover Mini. Rover's predicament was that the Mini had a nostalgic image in Britain, while they wanted to draw in a young market. A collection of

Britpop songs was compiled and the album shot to number seven.

Fiona Beeching, the head of sales and marketing for Polygram, says: "We have done five sponsored albums so far, all of which have reached the charts. But the concept is still at a fledgling stage and we are very selective about which brands we work with."

"There is enormous scope for development and it is a great device to enable both partners to reach a target audience in new outlets. But the partnership has to be absolutely right. If it is not done properly it could be disastrous for all concerned."

Blaskey, meanwhile, is also in earnest discussions about the music for the Rugby World Cup in 1999. "Because it is being held in Wales, we are looking at using Welsh choir music updated for the 1990s," he says. "It will be very evocative — one to watch out for."

When political poachers turn gamekeepers

Journalists are in demand as party spin doctors, says Simon Brooke

TOMORROW morning the Tories' new chief broadcasting officer begins work at Central Office. Anthony Gordon-Lennox will be charged with liaising between the party and the broadcast media: fielding ministers for interview, attempting to make sure that the Tory message gets across on TV and radio, and arguing with journalists and their editors when he or his seniors feel it hasn't. It is a tough job, I should know. I used to do it.

Mr Gordon-Lennox, however, has one qualification that I did not until recently he was a working journalist — on the BBC's *Question Time* and more recently *The Mid-night Hour*.

The trend for poacher to turn gamekeeper among Westminster journalists is growing. Over the past few years all three main parties have appointed a number of journalists, from the lobby and beyond, as spin doctors. Among the most senior are Charles Lewington, the Tories' communications director, who was formerly political editor of the *Sunday Express*, and Alastair Campbell, of *Today* and the *Daily Mirror*, who is his opposite number at Walworth Road.

Meanwhile, Jane Bonham-Carter, editor of Channel 4's *A Week in Politics*, was appointed the Liberal Democrats' director of media six weeks ago. The parties clearly consider that the appointment of a high-profile political journalist has a PR value in itself. "Given their troubles, the Tories did well to get Charles Lewington," says one political correspondent. "It was quite a feather in Mawhinney's cap."

The recruitment of Joy Johnson, from her job as the BBC's Westminster news editor, also gave New Labour a filip, believes one of her former colleagues.

But what of the practical benefits of having journalists as press officers? "The important thing is that I still think like a journalist," says one hack-turned-spin-doctor. "Politicians are just not terribly aware of what makes a story. Or sometimes they think that you can kill a story by just telling journalists not to write it. I have to be totally up front and say 'This is a front page story. It's going to happen'."

The transition is not always easy, however. "I discovered that being a journalist is not the same as being a PR person," says Sean Holden, who left the TV-am political team to run the Tories' broadcasting section during the 1992 election. "The first instinct of a journalist is to publish everything whereas in PR you publish selectively."

Many journalists find the culture of a political party very different to that of a newsroom. Mr Johnson, whose experience at Walworth Road was not a happy one, says: "In a structured environment like the BBC or ITN you are rivals on the career ladder but in a political party you become an opponent for political or ideological reasons." Another former hack adds: "As a journalist you are much more of a free agent. Having to clear quotes with at least five people... does delay things."

The change in relationships with politicians can also be difficult: one party communications expert remembers the embarrassment of having to

work with MPs he had "dusted up" in interviews.

A press officer with a journalistic background may well feel a natural empathy for the correspondents he or she deals with. But if, as is usually the case, those correspondents are former colleagues, relations can be strained. Mr Holden remembers a nasty moment while he was clarifying the party's position to a journalist after a difficult press conference. "Suddenly a light came on me from a passing camera crew and the next thing there were two more because they thought it was a row. I found myself at the centre of this wolf pack. I remember thinking 'Come on guys, this is me.'"

Working journalists can also see the advantages in party press officers having journalistic experience. "It's a huge advantage," says *The Times* political editor, Philip Webster, whose former colleague Sheila Gunn is now at the Tory press office. "They know our requirements and you don't tend to get quite as much rubbish from them. They will be trying to provide something they think has a better chance of making the paper, not just whatever the politicians think will be news."

In the last few years those who have crossed this journalistic Rubicon have discov-



Campbell: Tony Blair's adviser



Johnson: unhappy time at Labour



Lewington: coup for the Tories

I have seen the future, and it lurks in a laptop

Stuck in the mountains of Andalucia, newspaper junkies can quickly start to feel deprived of their daily fix. So two weeks ago, on the Costa del Sol, we all seized hungrily on that morning's *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* when we went to lunch by the sea — and our host was expecting *The Times* that afternoon.

With satellite printing, most British national newspapers are now on sale on the Continent on the day of publication. More than 100,000 copies of *The Sun*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* are printed in Spain every day to catch the summer influx of British holidaymakers.

There is already, however, an even easier method of getting the junkie's daily fix. With a laptop computer and access to the Internet, you can read *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* or the *Financial Times* anywhere in the world — often before the British have even woken up. All are now published daily on the Internet and their success is surprising all but the most devoted Internet fanatics. A British surfer can also read the *Irish Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe* or many other distinguished newspapers.

The Internet pioneer in Britain was *The Daily Telegraph*, which now has 310,000 registered readers of *ET*, the *Electronic Telegraph*. Across the world, seven million Internet readers are now registered with papers owned by its parent company Hollinger. The Internet edition of *The Times*, which was launched only in January, has 280,000. Up to half live overseas and, for *The Times*, about one in four in the United States. Their main interests are sport and news. Internet newspapers are still in their infancy and so far there are several different strategies. The Internet *Times* publishes a complete replica of *The Times*, apart from city prices and race cards. Readers can also order their own personal Internet *Times* by nominating what they want to read.

ET is an edited version of the *Telegraph* which concentrates on news and sport and which often leads on a differ-



ent news story, usually catering to its significant international readership. It is adding a Saturday edition in August and starting to publish seven days a week in September.

The *FT* adopts a similar approach, offering a selection of articles from the main paper as well as material prepared specially for the Internet by a team of dedicated journalists. So far, *The Guardian* has decided against going online on a daily basis and opted for developing special Web sites reflecting its readers' interests and preoccupations. It has Go2, a "webzine" for science and technology, and sites on such subjects as the Scott

Report or a register of MPs' interests. Its Euro 96 Web site, developed with Vauxhall and Lowe, Howard-Spink, got 500,000 "hits" a day and was one of the 100 hottest Web sites in the world. One of the buzzwords when you surf the Net is interactivity. Angry, delighted or perplexed readers can send e-mail to Internet papers instantly — and both the Internet *Times* and *Electronic Telegraph* get up to 100 e-mails a day. "They make us feel much closer to our readers," says Derek Bishton, the Editor of *ET*. "Our Internet readers don't have to stand on ceremony and we sense more honest responses."

Classified advertising is also proving popular. Seeking to buy a car or a holiday, you can click on Ford or BMW or Spain or France and go instantly to their ads. At Condé Nast, where *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Tatler* and *World of Interiors* have been on the Net since last November, advertising is developing into an Internet art-form.

Under a deal with Rover, *GQ* readers can study a car on screen, select colour schemes and e-mail Rover for a brochure — or move their mouse to any item of men's fashion and click for merchandising and a list of stockists. *Tatler* on the Internet offers a guide to 350 restaurants: readers tap in their request for a £30 dinner in a south London or Mayfair French restaurant and up comes a selection of recommendations. There are now 160,000 regular users and about 60,000 hits a month.

The *Times Higher Education Supplement*, which sells 27,000 copies a week, put its job ads on the Net in January last year and Internet users — many of them academics working overseas — can study the ads before the main paper is printed. On peak days they get 1,500 hits.

As an old-fashioned newspaperman, I doubt that I shall ever feel at home on the Internet. It is the under-30s who find it easy to surf the Net — and as sales of printed newspapers gently decline it is to their generation that newspapers must appeal if they are to develop and survive in the next millennium.

None of the editors of Internet papers believe they are presiding over the death of the traditional newspaper — but they do believe that they are giving them the breath of life for new generations. Going on the Net offers readers the opportunity to test papers they would not otherwise buy. Internet papers and e-mail offer editors an umbilical relationship with readers; they can be parochial, regional, national or international and they are amazingly cheap to launch. Above all, by going on the Net, every editor speaks to a global audience. I have seen the future and it smiles.

Our small screen has made the big screen.

Our in-flight entertainment system didn't have to audition to star in *Mission: Impossible*, which we'll be screening from September.

MOST OVERALL IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT AWARD 1995-96
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

Memorandum: In-flight TM & © 1996 Pantheon Pictures. All rights reserved.

NEWS

Howard defeat over Bulger sentence

■ Michael Howard suffered his twelfth defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that he had acted unfairly in setting a minimum 15-year sentence on the two boys who murdered James Bulger.

The judges criticised the Home Secretary's perfunctory and flawed approach to the case and said he should not have heeded petitions demanding that the two boys never be released. They said the tariff should be quashed. Pages 1, 2, 15

Government war on strikers

■ Curbs on 24-hour strikes and multimillion-pound fines on unions provoking disruptive disputes in monopoly public services such as the Post Office and the London Underground are being actively considered by the Government. Union leaders rejected the postal deal worked out last week. Page 1

Olympic inquest

The Government asked to meet the British Olympic Association over the lack of success at the Games. A debriefing session was set up for when the team returns to London next week. Page 1

Embryo offer

An offer by Italian doctors backed by a pro-life group which includes two elderly nuns to buy 3,300 frozen human embryos has been rejected. Pages 1, 15

Short complains

Clare Short criticised Tony Blair for the way she had been demoted last week, as the Labour leader promoted some of his leading traditionalist and modernising MPs. Page 2

Up in the air

Plans by British Airways and American Airlines to merge many of their operations were upset when BA was sued by its partner, USAir. Page 2

Stalker theory

A stalker probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was ambushed and bludgeoned to death with her six-year-old daughter, police said. Page 3

Football pay gap

Forty years after Paul Elliott and Alan Shearer were in the same under-12 team, both earn £180. Elliott makes his in a week, Shearer in an hour. Page 5

The naked truth about the Costa Brava

■ Descriptions such as "charm" is not a word that springs to mind when talking about Lloret in Thomson's new brochures, which aim to tell holidaymakers the truth about what to expect at their chosen resort. Britain's biggest tour operator decided to come clean partly to comply in advance with European consumer legislation. Page 1

Taking heart

Heart bypass patients will be able to leave hospital within three days and return to work a week later after a fresh breakthrough in keyhole surgery which is being tested in three hospitals. Page 6

Victims in court

A young couple who attacked and robbed three frail pensioners in their homes in Birmingham appeared in court as their traumatised victims watched from the public gallery. Page 7

Code of conduct

The backbench Commons Public Service Committee demanded a code of conduct to prevent ministers from misleading MPs. It says they should resign if they breach the rules. Page 8

Firms face fines

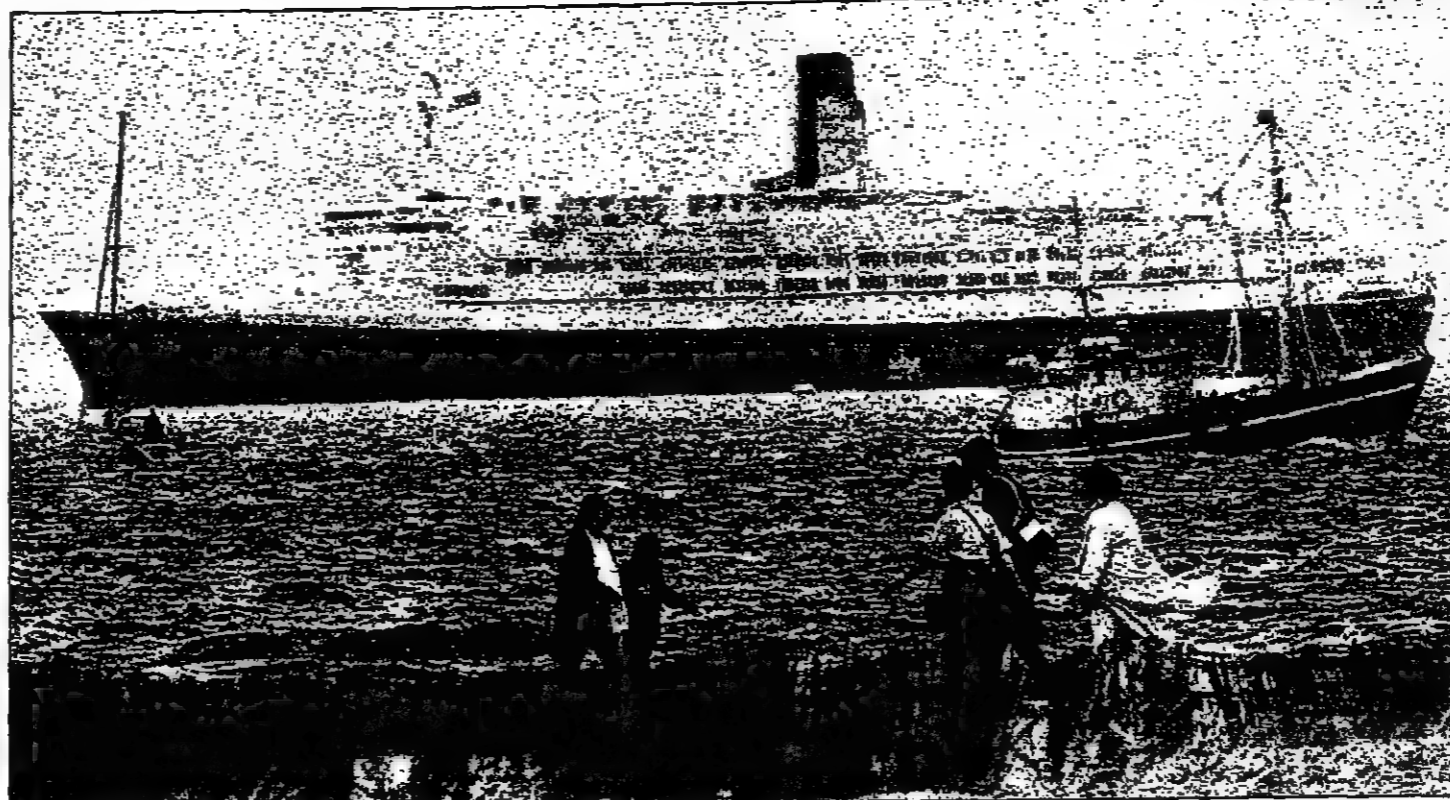
European companies may face hefty fines for co-operating with American courts seeking to enforce the "trading with the enemy" legislation. Page 9

War on terrorism

The G7 countries and Russia issued a "declaration of war" against international terrorism in Paris with an agreement on a range of measures. Page 10

Burundi summit

Burundi's new Tutsi military ruler Pierre Buyoya made a round of East African leaders seeking support before a regional summit on his country's crisis. Page 11



Low water in Warnemünde harbour, on Germany's Baltic coast, meant Queen Elizabeth 2 passengers had to be ferried ashore

BUSINESS

■ **NetWest:** Almost 300 branches are to close over the next four years at a cost of 10,000 jobs or nearly a quarter of the workforce. Page 23

■ **Economy:** The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is to receive a warning against cutting either interest rates or taxes if he wants to hit his inflation target. Page 23

■ **Whitbread:** The brewer is continuing its push into restaurant and leisure markets with the £133.1 million acquisition of Pelican Group, owner of the Café Rouge and Dôme chains. Page 23

■ **Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index closed 10.3 points down at 3,668.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 85.1 to 84.9 after a fall from \$1.5578 to \$1.5560 and from DM2.3065 to DM2.2988. Page 26

SPORT

■ **Olympic Games:** Great Britain beat Argentina 5-0 to reach the play-off for bronze in the women's hockey competition. Jane Sainsmith scored a hat-trick. Page 42

■ **Cricket:** Lancashire beat Derbyshire by two runs to reach the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy, where they will be joined by Yorkshire and Essex. Pages 37, 44

■ **Football:** The desire to stay in England and an ill-advised decision to sign a four-year contract last year, are likely to have cost Alan Shearer at least £10 million. Page 44

■ **Rugby union:** Bath and Leicester, England's leading clubs, have withdrawn from matches against Neath and Pontypridd, their Welsh opposite numbers at the start of the new season. Page 38

ARTS

■ **Summer Snapshots:** Day Three of our series on top tourist attractions braves the white-knuckle experience at Chessington World of Adventures. Page 30

■ **Fine art:** Only part of Nasser D. Khalili's collection of Islamic art — one of the grandest in private hands — is on show in London, but it's enough to impress. Page 30

■ **Man with a mission:** Paul Gregg, chairman of the Apollo Leisure Group, is the Yorkshireman who has discovered that theatres are big business nationwide. Page 31

■ **Perfect setting:** The delights of Drottningholm in Sweden remain one of the greatest joys in the operatic world, despite the oddities of its new staging of Gluck's *Orpheus* and *Eurydice*. Page 32

FEATURES

■ **Soliciting an answer:** The British take a peevishly virtuous stance on prostitution. But can society make provision for it? Page 13

■ **Chic cheek:** British street fashion is famous, but few dare to wear it. Now the Italian jeans company, Diesel, is taking British youth by storm with designs that have the last laugh. Page 12

■ **Brand music:** CDs are now sponsored by everybody from soft-drink companies to ice cream makers. The power of advertising through music is enormous. Page 21

■ **Brenda Maddox studies the "dark magic" of the language's most shocking words.** Page 20

■ **Face the music:** Now neighbours can be fined and their hi-fi confiscated if they play loud music after 11pm and before 7am. Page 19

■ **The American fanatics who have possibly struck the Olympic Games in Atlanta, in the same way that they killed 169 innocent people in Oklahoma City, have no excuse. If they want to liberate themselves from "the tyranny of federal government" they have only to win the elections.** — Le Figaro

■ **Fence-sitting on the single currency: Roman Catholic criticism of the Queen; disposal of unclaimed frozen embryos; Irish solutions; Tamil resistance; cabbies' hours; Blair and the Left; Olympic whingeing.** Page 15

■ **Simon Jenkins** President Clinton claimed that Atlanta's Centennial Park had become "our national common ground, a symbol of our common determination". This is ludicrously exalting the terrorist. It is setting him on a pedestal, turning the spotlight on his violence and crediting him with a power that challenges presidents and nations. Page 14

■ **Alan Coren** It is all unspeakably horrible. It is nothing less than voyeurism of the ugliest order. It is the contemporary equivalent of the Victorian freak show: as if there were not enough conventional wickedness in the world. Page 14

■ **Roger Tory Peterson** American ornithologist and bird illustrator; Robin Whitworth, BBC radio producer and television executive; Achilles Papadopoulos, High Commissioner in the Bahamas, 1981-83. Page 17

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TV LISTINGS

Preview: A daughter of the aristocracy is a stripper in New York. *Short Stories: Downward Mobility* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond on sleight of hand in *The Bill*. Page 43

OPINION

In the dock

Michael Howard is right and the judges are wrong, and nowhere more so than in the tragedy of the Bulger case. Page 15

Defeat for Iraq

At home as well as abroad, Necmettin Erbakan is on probation. For the purposes of maintaining pressure on Iraq, it is just as well that he knows it. Page 15

The dig of Binyamin

One of the Canaanite tablets is a lawyers' document, whereon is written that A tells B that C is a liar: so what else is new under the sun? Page 15

COLUMNS

SIMON JENNIONS

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ROGER TORY PETERSON

American ornithologist and bird illustrator; Robin Whitworth, BBC radio producer and television executive; Achilles Papadopoulos, High Commissioner in the Bahamas, 1981-83. Page 17

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Fence-sitting on the single currency; Roman Catholic criticism of the Queen; disposal of unclaimed frozen embryos; Irish solutions; Tamil resistance; cabbies' hours; Blair and the Left; Olympic whingeing. Page 15

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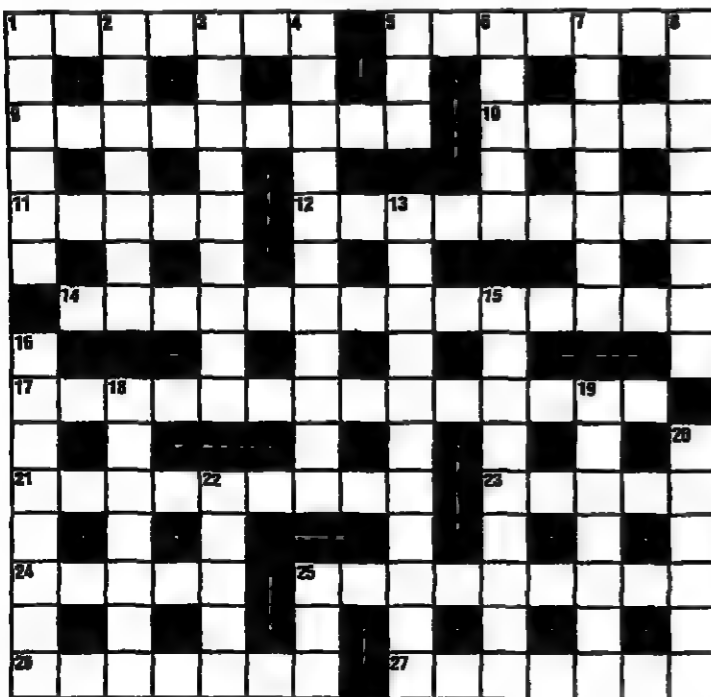
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,234



- ACROSS**
- Hurried to catch sleep missed (7).
 - Create ornamental edging, look inside prize (7).
 - Almost expect to scupper game (9).
 - Mum is head of household, not second (5).
 - Come to admire achievement, in part (5).
 - Tried once, when drunk, to be abstemious (9).
 - Crunch arboreal bits for him to process? (8,6).
 - Fruit that's got one well (6,3,5).
 - Is this colour wise/not wise? (4,5).
 - More tense in audition? The solution's concentration (5).
 - Visitor supposed to come from America, we hear (5).
 - Distinguished group of bosses right (9).
- DOWN**
- Ball's stratum of society (6).
 - Censure statement by self-proclaimed beauty (7).
 - One may get loaded, playing poker, with cash (9).
 - Impede one with zero value — unable to do this? (11).
 - Note part of London with nothing to lose (3).
 - Lunatic losing head is persuasive type (5).
 - Reluctant Scot in his home territory? (7).
 - Garden area — section with almost produced blooms? (8).
 - Northern natives in canoe, lads capsizing (11).
 - French article, a food not fit for consumption (9).
 - Male fool of advanced years treated in parlour (8).
 - Something imaginative with soft rather than loud colour (7).
 - Old county full of potholes? (7).
 - Metal ruler used by one wedding power (6).
 - Succeed in good school (3,2).
 - Half the pieces of paper in a book (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,233

IMMOBILISED BILLOW
MAEASODEL
PINUP NOTHINGTON
OIOOOTOID
SAFETYPLANMOTTO
TIELEAW
ONSIGHT DATIVE
BTRITIP
POTASH UNCOVER
V V V A O
IVORY ENDEMIC
EXBNSAJI
WALKONAIR SCOFF
EIASGSUI
DEPUTY FORENSIC

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,234

TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	20
East of London	20
South East	20
West of London	20
North East	20
North West	20
Yorkshire	20
East of England	20
West of England	20
South West	20
West Midlands	20
East Midlands	20
North Midlands	20
Yorkshire	20
East of England	20
West of England	20
South West	20
West Midlands	20
East Midlands	20
North Midlands	20
Yorkshire	20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA Roadwatch information 24 hours a day, dial 0800 400 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	20
East of London	20
South East	20
West of London	20
North East	20
North West	20
Yorkshire	20
East of England	20
West of England	20
South West	20
West Midlands	20
East Midlands	20
North Midlands	20
Yorkshire	20

HOURS OF DARKNESS

For the latest AA Roadwatch information 24 hours a day, dial 0800 400 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	20
East of London	20
South East	20
West of London	20
North East	20
North West	20
Yorkshire	20
East of England	20
West of England	20
South West	20
West Midlands	20
East Midlands	20
North Midlands	20
Yorkshire	20

FORECAST

■ **General:** England mostly dry with sunny intervals, southern England having a dull start with drizzle only slowly clearing. Scotland and Northern Ireland mostly bright with showers, with most sunshine in the south and east; northwest Scotland cloudy and windy, with outbreaks of rain becoming persistent.

■ **London, SE England, E Angles, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** Cloudy start with patchy rain. Brighter by afternoon. Winds light westerly. Warm, max 23C (73F).

■ **E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** Bright with sunny periods. Scattered afternoon showers. Winds light westerly. Warm, max 20C (68F).

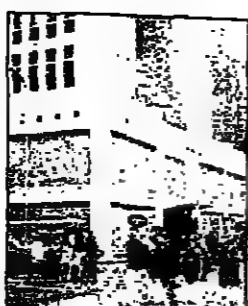
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Wind	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
South East	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
West of London	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
North East	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
North West	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
Yorkshire	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
East of England	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
West of England	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
South West	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
West Midlands	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
East Midlands	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
North Midlands	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10
Yorkshire	18	10	10	10	10	18	10	10	10

ABROAD

Alicante	27	81	Cloud	30	86
Algeria	22	80	Cyprus	19	65
Alexandria	31	88	Dublin	16	61
Amman	31	88	Edinburgh	32	90
Ankara	29	85	Geneva	24	81
Athens	31	89	Rome	30	85
Baku	29	91	Frankfurt	24	81
Batumi	30	86	Funchal	24	81
Bombay	30	86	Glasgow	25	77
Buenos Aires	30	86	Gibraltar	25	77
Bursa	27	81	Helsinki	17	63
Cardiff	27	81	Hong Kong	25	79
Casablanca	29	85	Istanbul	28	82
Cebu	28	82	Jeddah	38	100
Chengdu	28	82	Kobe	25	77
Chongqing	28	82	London	23	73
Copenhagen	24	76	L. Palmas	26	78
Damascus	24	76	La Teper	32	72
Dar es Salaam	29	85	Lima	26	78
Delhi	31	88	Lisbon	26	78
Dhaka	29	85	Luxembourg	32	91
Doha	31	88	Madrid	32	90
Dublin	16	61	Moscow	26	78

Temperatures at midday

INSIDE
SECTION2
TODAY**BUSINESS**

M&S aims to
make its marks
in Germany
PAGES 23-29

**ARTS**

Screams amid
the themes at
Chessington
PAGES 30-32

**SPORT**

Yorkshire move
smoothly into
NatWest semis
PAGES 36-44

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JULY 31 1996

Group profits drop to £302 million for first half of year

NatWest to close 300 branches



Wanless: opportunities

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ALMOST 300 NatWest Bank branches are to close over the next four years, with the potential loss of 10,000 jobs — almost a quarter of the present workforce.

The bank said that new technology, the public's enthusiasm for "hole-in-the-wall" cash machines, and competition was forcing it to reduce its branch network to 1,750 by the year 2000, compared with 2,046 branches at present and nearly 2,770 four years ago.

Service centres dealing with back-office administration, will be cut from 150 to 50.

The cost of restructuring and redundancy payments contributed towards a dramatic

drop in group profits from £872 million to £302 million for the first half of the year.

The disappointing result sent shares tumbling 12p to 616p in spite of the group's announcement that it was spending £450 million buying back its own shares. NatWest said that it had bought back 72 million shares at 625p per share, equivalent to just over 4 per cent of its issued share capital.

The figures included a £224 million gain on the sale of the bank's interest in 3i, the venture capital company, and a £690 million loss on the disposal of Bancorp, its US retail and commercial banking operation in May this year.

Lord Alexander of Weedon,

NatWest chairman, refused to say how many jobs would go, but 8ifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, estimated that the figure could be as high as 10,000. At present, NatWest employs 45,000 people, down from 67,000 in 1990. Restructuring cost NatWest UK, the retail arm, £675 million in the first half (£760 million), leaving a total pre-tax profit of £248 million (£330 million).

Richard Goeltz, group chief financial officer, gave a warning that costs could continue and that although NatWest Group intended to reduce cost-income ratios to 63 per cent over five years, there would "not be a smooth downward curve". Analysts said that this

put NatWest at a disadvantage to some of its high street rivals, particularly Barclays, which is already well on the way on its restructuring programme and has a tighter control of costs.

NatWest Group comprises NatWest UK, Lombard, the loans division, Ulster, NatWest Markets, and Courts, the private bank. The loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was £111 million, compared with a profit of £585 million for the same period in 1995.

This led to a loss per share of 6.3p, compared with earnings per share of 33.8p for the comparable six months of 1995. However, the interim dividend has been raised from

8.4p to 9.6p. Although analysts welcomed the share buyback, they said that NatWest would probably have preferred to spend the money on making an acquisition.

Derek Wanless, group chief executive, said that the bank wanted to expand to take up opportunities in the long-term savings market, but had "not found a candidate that fits all our criteria".

NatWest's bad debt charge was £45 million higher at £270 million, which, Mr Wanless said, was partly down to problems with customers at Lombard who were not repaying loans.

Bifu gave a warning that the standard of service to customers would fall as staff worked

longer hours. "New technology should be freeing up staff to give better service, but instead they are facing ever greater pressure," a spokeswoman said.

"The branch closure programme leaves rural communities in the lurch and forces customers into using cash machines and telephone banking which they may not want to do. We would like NatWest to consult local people first."

Mr Wanless said that the decision to close a branch was taken by local managers. More than 125,000 jobs and 2,500 branches have been lost in the industry as a whole since 1990.

Pennington, page 25

Whitbread picks up Pelican for £133m

BY PAUL DURMAN

WHITBREAD is continuing its push into the restaurant and leisure markets with the £133.1 million acquisition of Pelican Group, owner of the Café Rouge and Dôme chains of French style restaurants and caf  s.

Caf   Rouge is well known in many of the more fashionable parts of London, but has opened up only recently in other major cities. Whitbread intends to add up to 100 more to the existing chain of 66.

Whitbread's offer of 170p a share — 17 per cent higher than Pelican's share price

before the announcement — values the shares and options owned by Roger Myers, Pelican's founder and chairman, at about £3.15 million. His co-founder, Karen Jones, who will remain managing director, will make about £2.7 million from her stake.

The deal will also produce a £13.3 million windfall for Robert Earl, the Hard Rock Caf   founder, who sold Pelican four of his restaurants in 1993.

Mr Myers will stand down as chairman, but will continue as a director of Pelican, developing new restaurant concepts. Pelican also an Italian chain called Mamma Amalfi and is experimenting with Dragon Inns (Thai restaurants set in traditional pubs), an Italian version of Caf   Rouge called Pellicano and others. Altogether, Pelican has 103 trading restaurants and 23 more in the pipeline.

Peter Jarvis, Whitbread chief executive, said the acquisition was in keeping with the group's aim to be the best reseller in drinks and eating-out. The £21 billion eating out market is forecast to grow 41 per cent over the next five years.

David Thomas, managing director of Whitbread's restaurants and leisure business, said Caf   Rouge was the clear brand leader in a new urban market serving young ABC1 customers who no longer needed a special occasion to go out to eat. Pelican recently announced annual pre-tax profits of £7.5 million, or about £100,000 for each of the restaurants trading during the year. Mr Thomas said this was 25 per cent better than Whitbread's managed pubs.

Some analysts expressed concern at the price Whitbread is paying, which will require a £100 million write-off of goodwill.

Tempos, page 26



Roger Myers, founder and chairman of Pelican, and Karen Jones, the co-founder and managing director, at a Caf   Rouge restaurant

Think-tank warns Clarke against cuts

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, is given a warning today against cutting interest rates or taxes if he means to hit his inflation target.

In its latest economic outlook published today, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says that there is a more than 40 per cent chance that the Government will fail to deliver inflation of 2.5 per cent or less.

This suggests that far from adding further to demand in the economy, a government which takes its inflation target seriously should be seeking to restrain it," the institute says.

The warning comes the day after Mr Clarke met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, for their monthly monetary meeting. The meeting lasted for only 35 minutes and the Bank dealt with unchanged rates in the money

market. Since the Bank normally signals any change to the markets at the first possible opportunity, the City is assuming that rates have been left unchanged.

In spite of the fact that the institute, headed by Martin Weale, one of the Chancellor's

panel of independent forecasters, argues against cuts in either rates or taxes, it believes that the Chancellor will do both. In its economic forecasts it is assuming one penny off the basic rate of income tax and another 1/4 point off interest rates.

Referring to the latter, the institute says: "To make such a cut would be to ignore the build-up of expansionary pressure, which the Treasury has identified and with which we concur."

The only justification for lower rates would be if they were accompanied by a sharp

tightening of fiscal policy. The institute says that the income tax cut, which it expects in November, is likely to be accompanied by promises of a cut in public spending, but it doubts that this could be achieved. It gave a warning that scepticism about further cuts in public spending could provoke unfavourable market comment, and that this "may reduce any political benefit to be gained by such a Budget".

The institute forecasts that growth will total 2.1 per cent this year, accelerating sharply to 3.4 per cent in 1997. This compares with the Treasury's most recent forecasts of 2.5 per cent and 3.25 per cent.

But it is more pessimistic on inflation, predicting that underlying inflation will be 2.7 per cent by the end of next year, compared with the Treasury's forecast of 2.25 per cent.

National Express said it could not agree to promoting rivals without guarantees that they would provide an equal level of quality and safety.

Michael Davies, chairman, said: "We are naturally disappointed at the decision. We are convinced that the undertakings sought would not be in the best interests of the travelling public."

Shares depressed by US jitters

Shares in London suffered again at the hands of American traders yesterday (Janet Bush writes).

British shares recovered some ground on news of lower than expected American labour costs and a fall in new home sales, which suggested that the US Federal Reserve may not raise its interest rates.

But then confidence was undermined again by a surge in American consumer confidence during July. Trading is likely to remain nervous until Friday's key US employment report.

The FT-SE 100 index recouped some of the session's losses, but it still closed down 10.3 points, at 3,668.5. In early afternoon trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was roughly

unchanged after the losses it suffered on Monday.

American labour costs rose by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter, compared with market expectations of a 0.9 per cent increase. Sales of new homes dropped by 5.3 per cent in June, suggesting that higher mortgage rates are beginning to take their toll. Home sales were also revised down from March to May.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3668.5	(-10.3)
Yield	4.18%	(-4.28)
FT-SE All share	1622.11	(-17.21)
Nickel	20350.25	(-37.21)
New York	8431.26	(-3.33)
Dow Jones	8431.26	(-3.33)
S&P Composite	858.68	(-0.23)

LIVE RATE

Federal Funds	8.75%	(8.75%)
Long Bond	8.75%	(8.75%)
Yield	7.045%	(7.10%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	8.75%	(8.75%)
Life long gilt	100%	(100%)
Future (Sep)	100%	(100%)

STERLING

New York	1.8961*	(1.5585)
London	1.8961*	(1.5585)
DM	2.2992	(2.3070)
FF	7.8020	(7.8235)
Sfr	1.6771	(1.6807)
Yen	167.95	(168.62)
�� Index	84.9	(85.1)

US \$ DOLLAR

DM	1.4788*	(1.4803)
FF	5.0200*	(5.0210)
Sfr	1.2040*	(1.2060)
Yen	168.09*	(168.15)
�� Index	85.0	(85.1)

Tokyo close Yen 167.97

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct) \$18.48 (\$18.58)

LONDON COMMODITIES

London close \$84.75 (\$84.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Midland Main Line deal sent to MMC

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL EXPRESS'S winning bid for the Midland Main Line InterCity rail franchise was yesterday referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after the company refused demands to promote rival coach services.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said that the terms of the coach group's ten-year franchise "raises competition concerns in the market for the supply of coach and rail services" between London and the Midlands.

The decision came as National Express rejected Mr Lang's request to use its "best endeavours" to allow other operators to start coach services on its routes between London and five Midlands cities.

Mr Lang said: "The company have indicated that they are not prepared to give the undertakings which I was seeking." Instead, National Express had offered to limit fare increases to the inflation rate and maintain existing service levels on the relevant coach routes and to restrict advance purchase rail fare increases.

National Express said it could not agree to promoting rivals without guarantees that they would provide an equal level of quality and safety.

Michael Davies, chairman, said: "We are naturally disappointed at the decision. We are convinced that the undertakings sought would not be in the best interests of the travelling public."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fry's Nomura's delight

SIMON FRY is the man to watch after Robert Mapstone's resignation this week as co-head of equity trading at Nomura International. When Fry was taken on as head of asset trading in October 1994, all smiles and sunniness from CS First Boston, two competitive types at Nomura made a bet on how long it would take the new boy to resign. The money that Nomura had splashed out acquiring him.

The most optimistic bet was three months and Fry did not disappoint. The lucky winner of the bet was whisked off to lunch in a swanky restaurant, in a city of his choice. Meantime, Fry has been invited to share Mapstone's responsibilities with Nomura International president Takashi Tsutsui, and who knows what fortune holds for the man who backed him.

Going home

THE former Jamaican High Commission, and the London building that once housed Crocford's, one of the world's most famous gaming houses, between 1828 and 1840, is set to become a casino again. London Clubs has bought the imposing building in St James's Street to rehouse the casino it currently operates in the basement of the nearby Ritz Hotel. Discussions with the Ritz Hotel to extend the lease were in their final stages when the imposing building became available.



"With so many branch closures, it's difficult to find a bank open"

Testing time

PAUL PINDAR, managing director of Capita, announced some interesting results yesterday, aside from the outsourcing group's interim figures. Last month, a troop of 30 analysts and institutional investors was marshalled to Coventry for the day. Their mission? To inspect the national call centre for running the new theory part of the driving test, for which Capita was awarded the contract by the Driving Standards Agency. The mob were shuffled into the examination room, and put under theory test conditions. While 90 per cent of the analysts passed, the institutional investors lagged some way behind.

Just like that

DEREK Wanless, group chief executive at NatWest, was let off lightly yesterday after he turned up ten minutes late for a Radio 5 interview with Paul Charles of *The Financial World Tonight*. Charles was already furious with the bank — his NatWest Visa card had been stolen in a London restaurant 12 days before, and he had still not received a replacement card. Yesterday morning, Charles called up NatWest in a terrible rage, threatening to tell their boss of his dilemma. When Wanless eventually turned up at Broadcasting House ten minutes late, he was interviewed, he was waving in his hand a sparkling new Visa card for Charles.

MORAG PRESTON

M&S enterprise aiming to make its marks in Germany

The UK retailer's Cologne opening is seen as a

bold move, says

Michael Kallenbach

When Marks & Spencer opens its doors to customers in Germany for the first time in October, it will not only have the unenviable task of breaking through German bureaucracy, but also the challenge of convincing the inflexible German palate that British food is quite tasty after all.

For years, Germans have been brought up with the idea that they should consume only German products. The idea that custard tarts, trifles and pork pies are just as tasty if not cheaper than say wurst and sauerkraut, will be among the company's first battles to overcome.

The German ethic, after all, is to buy Siemens rather than Panasonic BMW rather than a Honda. For years, under the *Reinheitsgebot*, the brewing purity laws, Germans have been conditioned to believe their own beer is better than anything that foreigners can produce. But undeterred by mutterings, M&S is pouring thousands of marks into its new store in Cologne. Located in the Schildergasse, Cologne's Oxford Street, the company reacted quickly last year to a slump in the German property market to acquire the 4,700 sq metre premises over six floors.

Although this is not M&S's first venture in a German-speaking country — it has branches in Austria — it is seen, by analysts as a bold, yet necessary, move. The company first looked at Germany in 1990 soon after the Berlin Wall was breached; but then, with the political uncertainty surrounding unification, property prices leapt out of all proportion and the company decided to bide its time, keeping its options open.

But now that it has a foothold there is talk that other stores will open elsewhere in Germany. Hamburg, the most English-speaking of German cities, is being looked at favourably, as is Berlin, the past and future capital of Germany, even though Galleries Lafayette, the French retailer, has already established itself in eastern Berlin.

Clive Nickolds, one of the M&S directors responsible for continental European operations, is the first to acknowledge that there is a great deal of intense German competition to face, and "we still have a lot to learn about trading here". But in spite of this, the company will, from the beginning at least, offer the exact range of goods available in UK stores, with the exception of bedding.

Marc Bauwens, project manager for the Germany launch, is the first to admit that in the past "the Germans always looked after themselves first" but now things are changing and he hopes M&S will make inroads into the clothing and footwear industry, a market currently worth £48 billion. "The Germans like to wear daring



Scenting success: the new M&S store will open in Cologne's version of Oxford Street early in October

colours and we will have to watch that area very closely," he says, "but fashion is becoming more universal, and we try to keep up with fashion colours. We do not profess to be trendsetters."

But it is in the foods department that Bauwens hopes the company will make the biggest impact on the German market. Explaining to a *hausfrau* what coronation chicken or *hausfrau* pudding is may be a daunting task, but the company has done its research and believes customers are ready for new eating adventures. "There are changes going on in German society and we will offer our full range of international foods," Bauwens explains.

"While the German housewife is not exactly disappearing, our research shows us that half the households in Cologne are occupied by either one or two people, and that more women are going to work and doing less in the kitchen."

If M&S has done its homework properly, it could be tapping into a new take-home convenience market at pre-

cisely the right time. And it could well be that Germans are ready for it. Even though Germans traditionally eat their main meal, a hot one, at lunchtime, it could be that they take readily to the M&S food range.

The company's slogan, "Quality, Value and Service", has not been translated for the German market, but a new one developed for a new market — *Klein Kaufhaus, Weltanschauung* (not a department store, but a world philosophy). The thinking behind this is that M&S believes Germany does not necessarily need another department store, particularly since the Schildergasse is filled with them. "Our policy of coming over here," says Bauwens, "is different. We want to be ourselves."

The staff, most already on board, is being trained in the M&S philosophy. The 150 sales assistants will spend a week at the Baker Street headquarters between now and October to be immersed in company thinking — polite service and offering the customer

a quality product. Above all, they will be told that smiling and being pleasant to customers is almost a British way of life, something the German service industry seems to have long forgotten. Although the Germans are credited with having invented the expression "the customer is king", more often than not they treat customers with disdain. It is also rare to get German employees to wear uniforms and M&S will have to overcome this resistance.

When Richard Branson tried a similar scheme for the opening of his record store in Berlin several years ago, the staff refused to be told what to wear. On the management side, 15 German commercial and financial experts have already been selected, with the aim of keeping the team 60 per cent German and 40 per cent British.

The German venture could not come at a better time. After years of public debate, the German Government recently agreed to liberalise its outdated laws governing shop opening and closing times. From November, it will no longer be necessary to close at 6.30pm every weekday and at 2pm on Saturdays, except for the first Saturday of each month.

M&S waited for the right time to dip its toe into a market of 80 million customers. This could be it.

New venture, new slogan: 'Not a department store, but a world philosophy'

Boss's attention to detail cuts costs

Jon Ashworth on the collected office missives of Alan Greenberg of Bear Stearns

If everyone ran a business like Alan Greenberg, sales of paper clips would plummet, stationery suppliers would despair, and anyone with an MBA would be filling the dole queues.

Greenberg, long-serving chairman of Bear Stearns, the US investment bank, is renowned on Wall Street for the biting quality of his internal memos. Now the bad news: they have been released to the world at large.

Memos From The Chairman is not a book one would immediately put on the boss's Christmas list. Take Greenberg's comments on MBAs, outlined in a circular to staff in May 1981: "If someone with an MBA degree applies for a job, we will certainly not hold it against them, but we are really looking for people with PSD degrees" — that is, poor, smart and with a deep desire to become rich.

He adds: "They build this firm and there are plenty around because our competition seems to be restricting themselves to MBAs." So much for the year at Harvard.

Greenberg is obsessed with cutting expenses, but it is the subject of paper clips that really inflames him. In August 1985, he banned the purchase of paper clips, urging staff to re-use items attached to incoming mail. He later extended the initiative to rubber bands. Secretaries sealing en-



Wanted: smart workers with a deep desire to become rich

velopes for internal mail were urged to lick a small portion at a time, ensuring repeated use. As Greenberg notes: "If one has a small tongue and good co-ordination, an envelope could be opened and resealed ten times."

The sarcasm undoubtedly masks some solid business sense. Greenberg's memos are filled with references to cutting costs, returning telephone calls, and keeping one's feet firmly on the ground. At one point, he proposes fitting radio collars to employees who refuse to leave contact numbers, adding: "The collars are bulky and not very attractive."

Last year was not a great one for Bear Stearns, which saw net income fall from \$387 million to \$241 million in the year to June 30, 1995, on

revenues of \$3.8 billion. Figures for the latest financial year, due this week, are expected to show a sharp improvement. Greenberg would probably blame the temporary reversal on MBA graduates, or, worse still, charlatans. He once noted that he had found a market technician who would literally work for peanuts.

He went on: "All we have to supply him with is paper and pencil, and Doodles Danenberg will do his job. We will then distribute his graphs, which I promise you will be as good as any technical work done on Wall Street."

Doodles, he added, was a chimpanzee at the Central Park Zoo.

□ *Memos From The Chairman* (Workman, £10.99) will be published on September 18.

Bass creating a potent Czech brew of its own

Alasdair Murray on a successful foray into a fiercely protective beer market

Tucked away beneath Prague's television tower — a rocket-shaped absurdity bequeathed by the dying communist regime — is U Sadu, a gloomy, smoke-filled Czech pub frequented by locals from the fiercely working-class suburb of Zizkov.

Like many Prague pubs, U Sadu — "The Orchard" — has undergone changes since the old regime collapsed in 1989. Smoke-stained walls have been touched up with brightly coloured paint, the games room boasts the latest fruit machines, while the basement has finally been opened up, ensuring that customers no longer have to fight for a seat.

But in the past six years one thing has not changed — the price of beer. The pub did try recently to push through an increase equivalent to less than 1p and barely reflective of inflation since prices were liberalised, but its regulars refused to accept any rise in their precious beer.

The Czechs are the world's biggest beer drinkers, consuming 162 litres per person each year. The country also produces some of the best beer in the world — indeed

unfashionable Moravia, in the east, to become the country's second largest brewer, with 16 per cent of the market. Radegast also sponsors the Czech football team, whose players credited late-night beer-drinking sessions for the team's unexpected success in Euro 96.

Rumours continue that Bass is also aiming to take a stake in Budvar, the famous export beer, although it is likely to face fierce competition from Heineken and Anheuser-Busch. Anheuser, which produces Budweiser, is desperate to buy into Budvar to end a dispute over the Budweiser trademark (Budweiser is the Germanic form of Budvar) that has been hampering the American giant's plans for globalising its beer.

But, for the moment, Bass has stolen a march on its rivals. Bass's first target is to establish Staropramen as a national brand. A legacy of the communist restructuring of the brewing industry is that there are no national brands because each brand was confined to selling in its own region. Most of the country's 71 breweries are effectively bankrupt. They have no qualms about trying to steal back

6 Most foreign companies have struggled to find a niche in the Czech market

sales by keeping prices low, preventing Bass and its main rivals from pushing through the price rises needed to make the industry truly profitable. Bass, meanwhile, has helped to put in place a £50 million investment programme to bring its Prague brewery up to date. The first stage includes new brewing equipment due to be completed by the end of this year. It has been designed to revert to the old brewing methods if necessary.

Bass's other ambition is to fulfil the export potential of the brands. In the communist era, only Budvar and Pilsner Urquell were exported and the country still exports only about 1.5 million hectolitres (32 million gallons) a year. Bass has been pushing Staropramen hard in the UK as a premium foreign lager. It has deduced that the long-term success of its Czech experiment depends on keeping the U Sadu regulars happy.

NEW WEST LIMITED			
Annual Statement of Audited Results			
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	
	Year ended 30 June 1996		Year ended 30 June 1996
	1996		1996
	R000		R000
Revenue	18 973	Investments	167 729
Income from investments	6 531	Properties and ventures	135
Surplus on realisation of investments	270	Net current liabilities	(2 972)
Interest received	19		
Sundry revenue	25 795	Current assets	8 818
	4 630	Cash	5 036
Expenditure	2 157	Other	3 782
Administration	2 276	Less current liabilities	11 790
Exploration	197		
Interest paid	21 163	Share capital	164 892
Profit before tax	21 163	Reserves	76 467
Tax	21 163		164 892
Profit after tax	21 163	Investments	
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	68	Listed	
	21 231	- Market value	603 954
Less	21 200	- Excess over book value	437 501
Dividends declared	15 930	- Book value	166 453
Interim 17c (17c)	5 208	Unlisted - Book value	1 276
Final 35c (35c)	10 722	Shares in issue unchanged at 30 635 201	
Transfer to reserves	5 270	Net asset value per share - cents	2 066
Unappropriated profit carried forward	31		1 745
Earnings per share - cents	69		
Dividends per share - cents	52		
- times covered	1.3		

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No 91 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1996, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 16 August 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 11 September 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 10 September 1996.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The registers of members will be closed from 17 August to 23 August 1996, inclusive.

Head Office and Share Transfer Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greencourt House
Francis Street,
London SW1P 1DH

By order of the Board:
per *per* GOLD FIELDS
CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

30 July 1996

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 31 1996

	Sell	Buy				
Special Div	143.80	152.70	+ 0.20	1.52		
Av-Accum	139.10	169.30	- 0.30	1.82		
Technology	665.60	700.10	- 1.00			
Av-Accum	64.40	89.70	- 0.57	2.73		
Av-High Cap	56.90	163.20	- 0.40	3.23		
PRUDENTIAL UNIV TRUSTS LTD						
1001 4TH 38ST One-Side 0171 811 4400						
Av-Accum	44.74	45.36	- 0.12	1.17		
Av-High Cap	44.74	45.36	- 0.12	1.17		
WILL GENSLER INC	92.60	241.10	- 0.40	0.40		
Windsor Inc	92.59	92.40	- 0.36	0.33		
SOUTHWEST WOODS PUMP MGMT						
0171 880 3724						
Av-Accum	428.50	496.70	+ 1.10	2.50		
Av-High Cap	260.20	260.70	- 0.00	2.38		
Av-High Inc	369.00	330.40	- 1.00	2.88		
Av-Accum	328.00	488.50	- 0.70	2.57		

[illegible][illegible]

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FBI Joint Crime Ctr.		44-82		47-85		-0-01		07/18/2007		Investment	
National Response Procedures											
	US Major Cities	117.41	125.59	-0.23							
	US Small Cities	114.80	123.08	-0.08							
	US Interstate	114.98	122.86	-0.25							
	Americas	147.02	147.02	-0.03							
	Asia/Pacific	132.28	156.08	-0.04							
	Australia	132.06	157.74	-0.79							
	Europe	137.02	157.04	-0.18							
	Japan	89.57	94.26	-0.01							
	Latin America	119.89	119.89	-0.42							
	Other										
	US Major Cities	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	US Small Cities	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	US Interstate	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Americas	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Asia/Pacific	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Australia	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Europe	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Japan	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Latin America	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Other	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	US Major Cities	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	US Small Cities	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	US Interstate	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Americas	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Asia/Pacific	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Australia	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Europe	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Japan	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Latin America	141.40	141.40	-0.01							
	Other	141.40	141.40	-0.01							

ANA	11:51	116.84	0.52	012922 384 422	57.12	61.00	+ 0.08	7.00
ANA	12:48	100.18	0.28	Credit Suisse	37.14	34.00	- 0.15	0.82
ANA	13:14	54.47	0.08	Deutsche	80.76	85.62	+ 0.41	1.17
ANA	17:22	123.94	0.77	Exxon	48.89	42.50	- 0.28	3.90
ANA	18:35	101.60	0.20	General	111.21	110.40	- 0.20	1.25
ANA	18:57	80.25	0.11	McGraw	91.59	97.59	+ 0.25	2.85
ANA	19:13	111.81	0.54	Managers	74.50	79.73	+ 0.23	1.88

ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE LTD				STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS			
Phone: 07173 382 384 Fax: 07173 382 800				0800 393 777			
ANA	12:48	119.89	0.36				

19	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381
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	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

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1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

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1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
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1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

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1-Year Growth	75.12	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	391.00	209.00	- 0.70	1.40					

Japan Growth	326.00	147.35	0.45	0.15					
Japan Govt	125.00	101.00	0.20	0.15					
1-Year Growth	75.12								

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Japan Growth	1991-93	102.42	0.26	Midrange Growth	1991-93	147.61	0.32	2.85	
Latin America	1991-93	229.12	0.13	High Growth	1991-93	117.17	0.17	0.83	0.1
Asia	1991-93	25.23	0.29	SG's Inc.	1991-93	26.31	+0.03	1.95	
Latin America	1991-93	41.97	+0.42	SG's Inc.	1991-93	31.65	+0.03	1.87	
Midrange	1991-93	63.94	-0.35	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	84.67	+0.07	1.67	
Pressure on Cash	1991-93	10.95	-0.10	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	6.67	-0.03	2.55	
Pressure on Cash	1991-93	262.25	-0.07	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	42.97	+0.00	3.00	
SG's Inc.	1991-93	269.10	-0.06	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	29.87	-0.25	1.05	
Pressure on Cash	1991-93	11.15	-0.10	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	62.75	-0.15	0.68	
SG's Inc.	1991-93	22.67	-0.26	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	21.84	0.02	1.74	
SG's Inc.	1991-93	27.19	-0.62	US Growth Inc.	1991-93	20.82	-0.26	1.92	
				US Growth Inc.	1991-93	20.82	-0.26	1.92	

LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00
LA City Bus #	241.00	252.95	- 3.88	4.18
LA Gas 1/2 g.	201.00	202.15	- 0.15	0.15
LA Gas 1/2 g. & #	48.00	52.31	- 0.40	1.27
LA City Bus	288.00	274.10	- 1.50	1.50
LA City Bus #	174.70	184.00	- 0.30	0.14
SEMPERPARVUS UNIT TRAMWAYS LTD				
One 1960 300 1960 300 1960 300 348	318.67	327.53	- 0.50	0.00
Round Parts				
LA City Bus	76.00	87.24	- 0.14	1.00

1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01	2101-02	2102-03	2103-04	2104-05	2105-06	2106-07	2107-08	2108-09	2109-10	2110-11	2111-12	2112-13	2113-14	2114-15	2115-16	2116-17	2117-18	2118-19	2119-20	2120-21	2121-22	2122-23	2123-24	2124-25	2125-26	2126-27	2127-28	2128-29	2129-30	2130-31	2131-32	2132-33	2133-34	2134-35	2135-36	2136-37	2137-38	2138-39	2139-40	2140-41	2141-42	2142-43	2143-44	2144-45	2145-46	2146-47	2147-48	2148-49	2149-50	2150-51	2151-52	2152-53	2153-54	2154-55	2155-56	2156-57	2157-58	2158-59	2159-60	2160-61	2161-62	2162-63	2163-64	2164-65	2165-66	2166-67	2167-68	2168-69	2169-70	2170-71	2171-72	2172-73	2173-74	2174-75	2175-76	2176-77	2177-78	2178-79	2179-80	2180-81	2181-82	2182-83	2183-84	2184-85	2185-86	2186-87	2187-88	2188-89	2189-90	2190-91	2191-92	2192-93	2193-94	2194-95	2195-96	2196-97	2197-98	2198-99	2199-00	2200-01	
1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01																																																																																																					
1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01																																																																																																					
1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01																																																																																																					
1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01																																																																																																					
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1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01																																																																																																					
1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	20																																																																																																																																																																																																								

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Carquest Inc.	472.10	445.90	-	22.20	36%
- Acc'n	461.20	434.50	-	26.70	58%
For Equities Inc.	179.00	162.00	-	17.00	11%
- Acc'n	206.80	210.00	-	(3.20)	50%
Integrated Inc.	63.16	67.20	-	(4.04)	6%
- Acc'n	305.50	319.70	-	(14.20)	25%
For Equities Inc.	342.10	323.40	-	18.70	33%

Concrete Road	48.74	48.88	-	(0.14)	28%
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Source: FT Information

* Yield adjusted to GAW Composite Annual Return
 † 10 day period, 1 month period, 1 year period
 ‡ Periodic Change calculated from capital gain/loss
 Change

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Losses halved by the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	1996	Low	Company	Price	Change
120	120	Alcoholic Beverages	120	120	120	120	Alcoholic Beverages	120	120	120	120	Alcoholic Beverages	120	120	120	120	Alcoholic Beverages	120	120
121	121	Banks	121	121	121	121	Banks	121	121	121	121	Banks	121	121	121	121	Banks	121	121
122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	122	122	122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	122	122	122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	122	122	122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	122	122
123	123	Diversified Industrials	123	123	123	123	Diversified Industrials	123	123	123	123	Diversified Industrials	123	123	123	123	Diversified Industrials	123	123
124	124	Engineering Vehicles	124	124	124	124	Engineering Vehicles	124	124	124	124	Engineering Vehicles	124	124	124	124	Engineering Vehicles	124	124
125	125	Food Manufacturers	125	125	125	125	Food Manufacturers	125	125	125	125	Food Manufacturers	125	125	125	125	Food Manufacturers	125	125
126	126	Electricity	126	126	126	126	Electricity	126	126	126	126	Electricity	126	126	126	126	Electricity	126	126
127	127	Electronic & Elect	127	127	127	127	Electronic & Elect	127	127	127	127	Electronic & Elect	127	127	127	127	Electronic & Elect	127	127
128	128	Building & Construct	128	128	128	128	Building & Construct	128	128	128	128	Building & Construct	128	128	128	128	Building & Construct	128	128
129	129	Building Materials	129	129	129	129	Building Materials	129	129	129	129	Building Materials	129	129	129	129	Building Materials	129	129
130	130	Engineering	130	130	130	130	Engineering	130	130	130	130	Engineering	130	130	130	130	Engineering	130	130
131	131	Chemicals	131	131	131	131	Chemicals	131	131	131	131	Chemicals	131	131	131	131	Chemicals	131	131
132	132	Distributors	132	132	132	132	Distributors	132	132	132	132	Distributors	132	132	132	132	Distributors	132	132
133	133	Pharmaceuticals	133	133	133	133	Pharmaceuticals	133	133	133	133	Pharmaceuticals	133	133	133	133	Pharmaceuticals	133	133
134	134	Support Services	134	134	134	134	Support Services	134	134	134	134	Support Services	134	134	134	134	Support Services	134	134
135	135	Printing & Paper	135	135	135	135	Printing & Paper	135	135	135	135	Printing & Paper	135	135	135	135	Printing & Paper	135	135
136	136	Mining	136	136	136	136	Mining	136	136	136	136	Mining	136	136	136	136	Mining	136	136
137	137	Leisure & Hotels	137	137	137	137	Leisure & Hotels	137	137	137	137	Leisure & Hotels	137	137	137	137	Leisure & Hotels	137	137
138	138	Property	138	138	138	138	Property	138	138	138	138	Property	138	138	138	138	Property	138	138
139	139	Telecommunications	139	139	139	139	Telecommunications	139	139	139	139	Telecommunications	139	139	139	139	Telecommunications	139	139
140	140	Textiles & Apparel	140	140	140	140	Textiles & Apparel	140	140	140	140	Textiles & Apparel	140	140	140	140	Textiles & Apparel	140	140
141	141	Oil & Gas	141	141	141	141	Oil & Gas	141	141	141	141	Oil & Gas	141	141	141	141	Oil & Gas	141	141
142	142	Other Financial	142	142	142	142	Other Financial	142	142	142	142	Other Financial	142	142	142	142	Other Financial	142	142
143	143	British Funds	143	143	143	143	British Funds	143	143	143	143	British Funds	143	143	143	143	British Funds	143	143
144	144	Shorts (under 5 years)	144	144	144	144	Shorts (under 5 years)	144	144	144	144	Shorts (under 5 years)	144	144	144	144	Shorts (under 5 years)	144	144
145	145	Longs (over 15 years)	145	145	145	145	Longs (over 15 years)	145	145	145	145	Longs (over 15 years)	145	145	145	145	Longs (over 15 years)	145	145
146	146	Unrated	146	146	146	146	Unrated	146	146	146	146	Unrated	146	146	146	146	Unrated	146	146
147	147	Index-linked	147	147	147	147	Index-linked	147	147	147	147	Index-linked	147	147	147	147	Index-linked	147	147
148	148	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	148	148	148	148	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	148	148	148	148	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	148	148	148	148	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	148	148
149	149	Investment Trusts	149	149	149	149	Investment Trusts	149	149	149	149	Investment Trusts	149	149	149	149	Investment Trusts	149	149
150	150	Water	150	150	150	150	Water	150	150	150	150	Water	150	150	150	150	Water	150	150
151	151	Alternative Inv Market	151	151	151	151	Alternative Inv Market	151	151	151	151	Alternative Inv Market	151	151	151	151	Alternative Inv Market	151	151

■ SNAPSHOTS

Day Three of our series on top tourist attractions braves the white-knuckle experience that is Chessington



■ VISUAL ART

Glittering treasures the rest of the world ignored: the Khalili collection of Islamic art goes on show in London

THE TIMES ARTS

■ PROM

At the Albert Hall, Trevor Pinnock struggles with the problem of 'period' music-making in large venues



■ TOMORROW

A big screen debut for Roald Dahl's whimsical tale of hopes and dreams, *James and the Giant Peach*

SUMMER SNAPSHOT: Richard Morrison clings on for dear life at Chessington World of Adventures

A mad social whirl in the park

Here is a test of your capitalist instincts. You are a British investor and the year is 1979. Someone says to you: "I have this wonderful scheme for making money. We will build machines that scare the pants off the public. We will give them lurid, pseudo-mythic names evoking horrible deaths, like *Jaws of Hell* or *Torab of Torture*. We will strap the punters in, so that they cannot change their minds and escape."



there it was known humbly as Chessington Zoo, and it had much to be humble about. Visitors would stare moodily at monkeys. Monkeys would stare moodily back — and that was about it.

There are lawns and a zoo, then in the distance you hear the screams

"We will hurt them round incessantly at terrifying speed until they go green at the gills. We will soak them to the skin with muddy water, and utterly humiliate them in front of hundreds of cackling strangers — and (this is the good bit) we will charge them handsomely for the experience. It can't fail to catch on. Now, will you put money into it?"

Be honest. You have just turned down the chance to play midwife to Britain's first theme parks, haven't you? Those same theme parks that have grown, in just 17 years, into a £130 million industry. The theme parks that are visited, so they claim, at least once a year by 22 per cent of all British adults and 36 per cent of children. Yes, you have made quite a miscalculation. With 11 million visitors a year to Thorpe Park, Alton Towers and their dozen competitors, and with each family paying around £60 for admission, you could have been on to a nice little earner.

Last weekend I revisited Chessington. When I last went



New worlds to conquer: filling the thrills vacuum for Britain's post-fairground generation has meant monster profits for Chessington and its ilk

When you first enter, it is deceptively calm. There are English lawns and a mock Tudor mansion, and the remnants of the zoo ("Animal Land") which boasts some exotic breeds among the sea lions and tigers: a mean-looking Brazilian tapir, an Arabian addax with crazy, twisted horns.

But then, in the distance, you hear the screams. From "Transylvania" comes the sound of The Vampire, a rollercoaster alleged to resemble the flight of a bloodsucking bat. It certainly drained the blood from my face — and as you emerge they show you the photographs to prove it. If that doesn't churn you up sufficiently, there is the dithering Runaway Minecart in "Calamity Canyon", and a huge flume called Dragon River in the "Mystic East" area.

These, however, are mere carousels when compared to

the ghastly contraption that has made Chessington a byword for wide-eyed terror in school playgrounds across southern England. Rameses Revenge (the apostrophe has no place in the modern theme park) has what they call in the trade a "three-way fear factor". This means that it twists its riders through 360 degrees in two different planes simultaneously, while squirting them with water. The sensation of being plunged upside-down from 60ft in the air into a rock-lined pit is much prized: the queues are long and impatient.

Not all at Chessington is white-knuckle stuff. A "Big City Circus", largely staffed by Hungarians with dazzling physiques, is as lively a show as anything currently travelling under a big top in Britain. "Toytown" offers gentle roundabouts for toddlers; I quite enjoyed those. But they

hold no "scream appeal" for the vital 10-15 age group.

Whether sane grown-ups come away thinking that all these cardboard "worlds" constitute the nadir of naïf or simply a good way of keeping children amused for several hours, depends largely on temperament. But don't underestimate the amount of psychology that goes into a theme park's construction.

They survive and prosper by appealing to three different types of children — which they categorise as "daredevils", "anxious triers" and "clingers". What's more, the canny theme-park operators have also identified three different types of parents to which they must also appeal. They are "child appreciators" who enjoy having fun with their children; "child dependents"

who "live vicariously" through their children; and "adult martyrs", the "reluctant parents" who are essentially marking time waiting for their children to grow up.

A successful theme park must not only attract all these categories, but also detain them within the grounds for several hours. The longer a family stays inside a theme park ("dwell time"), the more burgers, drinks and souvenirs are purchased ("secondary spend"). That is where the big profits come.

Are theme parks a good thing? To some sophisticated they inhale the same synthetic world as virtual-reality videogames and pubs called The Elfin and Gropers. But they satisfy two apparently conflicting needs in modern urban life. Present-day children — whose lives are, by and large, more confined, sedentary and comfortable than ever before

— crave open-air thrills. But parents put safety first. The last thing they want is any sniff of the seediness traditionally associated with old-fashioned fairgrounds.

The theme park offers the illusion of danger, and it succeeds by playing on people's fears. But in reality all is controlled, clean, neat. While I was in Chessington I saw two boys attempt to stand up and wave while suspended 50ft in the air on the wildly swinging "Smugglers' Galleon". It was crass, unthinking and dangerous. On the other hand, it was a typical teenage stunt. They were yanked off the machine, given a stiff lecture, and ejected from the premises. In the modern theme park you get your thrills strictly within the rules, or not at all.

Tomorrow: A Summer Snapshot of Westminster Abbey

BEC PROM

Periods of tedium

English Concert/
Pinnock
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THE problem of "period" music-making in large concert halls was highlighted in Tuesday's Prom by the English Concert and its choir under Trevor Pinnock. Even when an unauthentically large orchestra is assembled in the Albert Hall, gut strings and old-fashioned winds cannot "speak" with their characteristic directness, and the whole exercise loses some of its point.

The centrepiece was Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* (1796), one of the six last masses that represent the pinnacle of his achievement. But in this performance — with a choir of three dozen — the dark, foreboding fanfares and drum rolls in the *Agnus Dei* evoked little of the menace in the title. At least the performance boasted a solo quartet of fine young singers. The only extended solo is the Gloria's "Qui tollis", and Gerald Finley shaped the lines with Lied-like intensity, his baritone full of pleading emotion. John Mark Ainsley was refined in the small tenor part, and the women, Susan Gritton and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, were well matched.

There was some compensation for a routinely played programme of Haydn and Mozart in two infrequently heard works. Haydn's *The Storm* is a secular choral piece burdened with an aura of religious respectability, and hardly hints at the wild invention in *The Creation*. It is in one succinct movement, but this dreary performance highlighted its repetitiveness.

The concert had opened with a Mozart symphony never before played at the Proms: No 23 in D, K 181, an overture-like work in which the three short movements run into one. Pinnock, directing from a barely audible harpsichord, was fast and inflexible: the "spirito" of the *Allegro* was closer to "furioso". His reluctance to shape phrases did slightly less damage to Mozart's *Jupiter* Symphony, a work in which nothing can extinguish the blaze of genius. Still, there was a shortage of grandeur, rhetorical gesture and sometimes precision in what was in every way a lightweight performance.

JOHN ALLISON

Turkey with all the trimmings

Empire of the Sultans presents only a fraction of a collection, but it still impresses, says John Russell Taylor

THE Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art is one of the grandest and most extensive now in private hands — especially remarkable in that it has been almost entirely amassed in the past 20 years. The splendid show, the opening attraction of the London University School of Oriental and African Studies' elegant new Brunel Gallery, concerns itself exclusively with the Ottoman elements in the collection, which constitute less than 5 per cent of the whole.

The works on show indicate an enterprising and idiosyncratic taste, and incidentally suggest how such a glittering collection could have been put together in such a comparatively short time. On the whole, experts in Ottoman art have tended to dismiss the 19th century as a period of decadence and corruption from the outside. It has apparently been impossible to appreciate the Topkapı Sarayı and at the same time enjoy the rococo friels of the Dolmabahçe Palace for what they are.

But, in any case, by no means all 19th-century art in Turkey falls into this semi-kitsch category; much is made very consistently along traditional lines. Some of the imperial documents, for instance, might in style and quality of calligraphy date from two or three centuries earlier.

This is just one of the areas where the Khalili Collection has built up strength from buying things the rest of the world ignored. Unfortunately,

it has been necessary to reduce the size of the exhibition from its first showing in Geneva last year, and some of the most charming later pieces, such as the fiendishly elaborate paper cuts, have got rather lost in the shuffle. Also, such larger pieces as the suits of intricately inlaid armour and most of the weapons have proved impossible to fit in.

In recompense, many real gems of significant art are here. The famously intimidating 15th-century iron and steel war mask, with beaten and engraved decoration, is fortunately of a manageable size. There are the most wonderful illuminated books and leather bindings, obsessively detailed in the decoration but at the same time witnessing to a stern sense of order beneath the superficial entanglement. Occasionally the interest of what we are seeing is of the kind which wonders at the dexterity of someone whose ambition would appear to be to inscribe the whole of the Koran on a single grain of rice.

But, on the whole, such finicking pursuits are not encouraged. Instead, we have the most splendid multicoloured Iznik pottery, and the most exquisite miniature vignettes of Ottoman life. There are rugs and hangings that would make any Western mouth water; significantly, though Khalili himself holds a New York degree in computer science, he comes from several generations of Isfahan dealers in carpets and lacquerware.

At present, the vast collection, of which this show represents merely the tip of the tip of



A page from the original *Siyer-i Nabi*, the Turkish version of the Life of Muhammad, left, and a poetical anthology in oblong (sefine) format, both late 16th century

the iceberg, is stored in London. There has been much discussion recently as to where it will eventually be housed. Last year in Geneva there were rumours to the effect that the city had agreed to meet the collector's conditions and provide a complete, custom-built museum building for it, site as yet undecided. Now the issue seems to be a little less clear

cut. Certainly hearing from Professor Michael Rogers, London-based honorary curator and author of the catalogue for this show, that the collection as a whole is "far more systematic and historical" in its putting-together than those of the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert, or that it includes more than 500 illuminated Korans, as against the

British Museum's 50. It is difficult not to fret a little at the prospect of its departure. But at least this show, highly enjoyable in itself, provides very palpable evidence of what we may be missing.

● Brunel Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1 (0171-383 2300) Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, until August 31

Florence, Tuscany and Rome

Six nights from £299 per person
Departures between November 1996 and April 1997

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Andy L.

W

T

THE problem of "period" music-making in large concert halls was highlighted in Tuesday's Prom by the English Concert and its choir under Trevor Pinnock. Even when an unauthentically large orchestra is assembled in the Albert Hall, gut strings and old-fashioned winds cannot "speak" with their characteristic directness, and the whole exercise loses some of its point.

The centrepiece was Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* (1796), one of the six last masses that represent the pinnacle of his achievement. But in this performance — with a choir of three dozen — the dark, foreboding fanfares and drum rolls in the *Agnus Dei* evoked little of the menace in the title. At least the performance boasted a solo quartet of fine young singers. The only extended solo is the Gloria's "Qui tollis", and Gerald Finley shaped the lines with Lied-like intensity, his baritone full of pleading emotion. John Mark Ainsley was refined in the small tenor part, and the women, Susan Gritton and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, were well matched.

There was some compensation for a routinely played programme of Haydn and Mozart in two infrequently heard works. Haydn's *The Storm* is a secular choral piece burdened with an aura of religious respectability, and hardly hints at the wild invention in *The Creation*. It is in one succinct movement, but this dreary performance highlighted its repetitiveness.

The concert had opened with a Mozart symphony never before played at the Proms: No 23 in D, K 181, an overture-like work in which the three short movements run into one. Pinnock, directing from a barely audible harpsichord, was fast and inflexible: the "spirito" of the *Allegro* was closer to "furioso". His reluctance to shape phrases did slightly less damage to Mozart's *Jupiter* Symphony, a work in which nothing can extinguish the blaze of genius. Still, there was a shortage of grandeur, rhetorical gesture and sometimes precision in what was in every way a lightweight performance.

JOHN ALLISON

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THEATRE 1

Meet Paul Gregg, chairman of Apollo Leisure Group, and one of the most powerful men in British theatre



THEATRE 2

The Oxford Stage Company's version of *Hamlet* is short on enlightenment and long on endurance

THE TIMES ARTS



CABARET

An exuberant Gerard Kenny proves that his appeal as a performer remains undiminished



OFFER

Edinburgh nights: visit the world's biggest arts bash in August, courtesy of *The Times* Theatre Club

Andy Lavender on the Yorkshireman who has discovered that theatres are big business nationwide

Where there's shows there's brass

There is an argument that too many long-running musicals are clogging up London's West End theatres. Let us assume that you believe the opposite: there should in fact be more of them. They should be lavishly staged and housed in the grandest venues available. Moreover, they should also be seen in similar venues around the country. If this is your case, you will find a champion in Paul Gregg.

A Yorkshireman in his mid-fifties, Gregg is chairman of the Apollo Leisure Group, which makes him one of the most powerful behind-the-scenes figures in British theatre. He founded the company with his wife, Nitta, 19 years ago when they took over the lease of the New Theatre in Oxford. Since then Apollo has become the largest theatre operator in the country, employing more than 4,000 staff, owning 23 venues and running a number of others for various local authorities. Apollo's empire includes the Palace Theatre and the Opera House in Manchester, the Edinburgh Playhouse and the Bristol Hippodrome.

There's gold in them thar regions. By its opening night in Manchester, for instance, *Grease* had taken nearly £4 million in advance bookings. Gregg has accumulated a network of venues which he describes as "a sort of off-West End circuit that can take serious money at the box office".

He is also taking serious money at his caverns of popular culture in London. His company operates the Apollo Victoria, where *Starlight Express* has been running for nearly 13 years; the Dominion, where *Grease* has proved a surprise success; and the Hammersmith Apollo (formerly the Odeon), where *Riverdance* earns more than £500,000 a week. The Lyceum Theatre on the Strand, currently shrouded in builders' tarpaulins, is Gregg's latest acquisition and is due to reopen in November after standing derelict for eight years.

What is the secret of Apollo's continued ascent? "I'd say it is to do with being sentimental about the buildings, and maybe not the product," says Gregg. "The role we've created for ourselves is to provide the facilities and make theatregoing easier for people who want to see good shows — and try to make a profit out of it."

Should you think that this means dead-eyed entrepreneurs filling in provincial real estate with second-hand productions, Gregg insists that the touring shows can be more intoxicating than their West End incarnations. "*Phantom of the Opera* cost £3.5 million to produce on the road," he says. "With that kind of investment, the show was of



Unrepentant populist Paul Gregg on site at the Lyceum. The theatre, costing £4.5 million to restore, is set to reopen with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*

superb quality. It attracts people who may never have gone to the theatre before. I believe in developing an enormous theatre audience on the back of those kind of shows."

Apollo initially specialised in variety and light entertainment. Its current fondness for theatre spectacles indicates a shift in the industry. The variety circuit has shrunk while, with careful production planning, mega-musicals can now be cloned any number of times. Not everyone delights in the spread of such anodyne extravaganzas. Isn't Gregg ever tempted to offer the public what he feels they ought to want, rather than such carefully packaged fare?

"I can only give them what they want," he says immediately. "Other-

wise I'm picking the tab up. Look, *Summer Holiday* [the musical adaptation of the film] is in Blackpool. It's great entertainment. It appeals to kids, grandmas and whoever. Cliff Richard appeals to *Riverdance* might not be art but it's bloody good entertainment. I'm not trying to run Chichester and produce drama there. I wouldn't know where to start, to be honest."

Gregg knows where he is going, however. While four-fifths of Apollo's interests are theatrical, its portfolios include restaurants, nightclubs and hotels, and the company is looking to double the number of cinema screens it owns within the next four years.

Meanwhile, Gregg can rub his hands in anticipation of a satisfying theatrical year ahead. *Starlight Express* is still going strong. The Walt Disney Corporation is bringing a production of *Beauty and the Beast* to the Dominion in 1997, while *Heathcliff*, Cliff Richard's musical version of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, will play a 20-week run at the Hammersmith Apollo. *Riverdance* will tour to Apollo's regional venues, as will productions of *Crazy for You*, *Les Misérables* and possibly *Cats*. Then there is the reopening of the Lyceum in London.

The last theatre performance at the Lyceum was given in 1939. It became a Mecca dance hall after the war, but fell into decline and

disrepair. Apollo Leisure acquired the lease in 1994 and has ploughed £4.5 million into the theatre's restoration — the fifth time in its history that it has been either rebuilt or renovated. The initial plan was to provide a temporary home for the denizens of the Royal Opera House during that venue's redevelopment. The second fell through, making way for a new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Surely another Lloyd Webber offering — and a hoary one, at that — is hardly the most exciting choice, given that the Lyceum's boards have been trodden by the likes of Kean, Irving and Gielgud? "Everything that you do with Andrew Lloyd Webber is different and special,"

Gregg counters. "The right choice is the right commercial choice for the Lyceum and Apollo Leisure Group. It's also the right choice in attracting the biggest potential audience."

We have reached the bottom line. "You have to remember — and we're not ashamed of it — that we are a commercial entertainment company. We're not scared of that," Gregg says. "We've never stood up and said 'we're here for art'. We've proved, for example, that 3,500 people, for seven shows a week, want to see *Riverdance* at the Apollo Hammersmith. Good luck to them. They're having a great time and as far as I'm concerned, better that than some of the presentations that are put into the West End that absolutely nobody wants to see."

CABARET

THE SONGS IN HIS ART

Gerard Kenny

Pizza on the Park

AFTER two weeks at Kettner's in Soho, the ebullient Gerard Kenny is now at this sister establishment, off Hyde Park Corner. Its crepuscular basement is dazzlingly illuminated by his exuberance and sheer joy in performing. And to judge by the opening night sell-out, his appeal as a cabaret performer is undiminished.

A songwriter whose satisfied clients include Barry Manilow, Shirley Bassey, Johnny Mathis and, er, Dennis Waterman (remember *I Could Be So Good For You*?) topped various charts and won an Ivor Novello award, Kenny has not troubled the chart compilers in some time. His style is old-fashioned, romantic, full-on sentimental. The opening song of his first set is *I Am the Singer*, an affirmation he reinforces through a dozen titles. They include *I Love a Piano* (he is inclined to give it a thorough workout to prove his ardour), *Fascinating Rhythm* and *I Got Rhythm* played as a medley, and a can-do anthem, which he hardly needs to admit is personal: *All For a Dream*.

Pleasant (and crowd-pleasing) as these are, it is in other moods that he is most distinctive. A tender, witty collaboration with Ned Sherrin, *Not Funny*, is a miniature masterpiece, beautifully recorded by Marian Montgomery and deserving of wider exposure. Cy Coleman's *It Amazes Me* and *Why Did I Choose You?* are similarly touching and patently sincere. His near-death in a car accident eight months ago has brought new relevance to the sentiments of *The Best of Times* is *Now*, which is too often merely a party sing-along.

An interlude in which he was joined by Kevin Farrell, the talented pianist currently playing in another London restaurant, offered slapstick humour (fighting over the keyboard in *Tea for Two*) and a comic duet about the lot of lounge pianists everywhere.

His second performance each night is made up entirely of his own compositions, but it is at least as interesting to get in the early show, a sidelight on a musician whose bright and breezy persona may sometimes obscure his real depth and worth.

TONY PATRICK

Edinburgh calls

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A teenage nuisance

THEATRE

Hamlet
Rose, Oxford

When the Playhouse reopens in September, with its seats new and its air at last conditioned, even productions as long as this (three and a half hours with two intervals) may flash by. In the meantime, the Oxford Stage Company has gone back to the space it occupied when John Retallack became artistic director in 1989, the Newman Rooms opposite Christ Church, renamed for the Elizabethan playhouse being excavated on London's Bankside at the time. A broad curtained level overlooks a square acting area in the main body of the hall bordered by seats on three sides. In the front row the audience must take care not to stretch a stiff leg or else risk tripping an actor running past in search of ghost, dead counsellor or obstreperous prince. On the left hangs a portrait of the dead king, stern, uniformed; on the right a besuited Claudius smiles down. And across the floor and along the steps of Matthew Wright's set the names of glorious Danish dead have been incised and gilded: Askel Garsler, Lars Dimesen, line after line of them, Eriksens and Sorensens, women's names too, Marthe and Anna.

Possible explanations for this floated into my head during the evening. Inevitably, a war memorial was the first to come, but there is no obvious reason why the Danish court should be assembling on a cenotaph. Is it to provide a sense of history? Does it list the students in



Ian Pepperell: heartless

Hamlet's year expelled from Wittenberg? I have no answer. Claudius and Old Hamlet are both played by William Russell, in excellent form both in the martial stalk and sombre mien he presents as the Ghost and as his smiling murderer. Young Hamlet mentions these smiles — what a man may do yet be a villain — and this co-production by Retallack and Karl James makes smiling the keynote of Claudius's early scenes. He arrives to applause, led by Sheila Allen's Gertrude, and smilingly greets the line of courtiers. He may talk in his clipped voice of the nation's woe, but his lips show an undeniably contented curve.

Throughout the scene where Claudius is being graciously welcoming, one figure stands unimpressed by the charm, possibly oblivious to it. In open black shirt and overcoat, frozen in pique, or even grief, Ian Pepperell's Hamlet looks as young and pensive as a frustrated teenager. When his uncle starts cooing him in praise, he makes no effort to disguise his contempt; but Pepperell's voice does not develop the necessary range of tone to

keep one keen to see how this particular prince will fare.

He is good with the throw-away comedy. "We could an if we would" jokes on the battlements, but, as his catalogue of crimes accumulates, this Hamlet is presented as a vociferous nuisance. In some performances "crimes" is a word that can be avoided when adding up all the people Hamlet casually kills. Claudius, after all, only kills his brother and, unlike Hamlet, feels remorse. Pepperell's Hamlet has no heart, and this makes Shakespeare's writing, often clumsy in this play, seem unconsidered. Witness Horatio's double standards over the deaths of the luckless Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

The modern costumes also work against our tolerance of a troublesome prince, as does the Retallack/James idea of having one actor play Ghost and Claudius. Hamlet rails against the repellant man his mother has married: we see a perfectly dignified, silver-haired husband.

Performance and production do not grow; neither do they enlighten us with deepening understanding of the hero or the times he lives in, whatever these are meant to be. Colin George's Polonius and Gravedigger make a good pair, but Emma Cunliffe's Ophelia is dull. And another thing: if the duel is staged as some sort of medieval joust, it is perfectly natural for the poisoned cup to be set down on a table fatally near to Gertrude. In this production it has to be carried down the steps, over Cnut Thorkfinger and the rest of them, and put down by Gertrude's feet. She would have to be a paid-up member of Alcoholics Anonymous to resist it there.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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OPERA

Drottningholm remains one of the greatest joys in the operatic world, despite the oddities of its new Orphée

MUSIC ABROAD: Opera oddly served in Sweden; chamber treats in Finland

Flawed gem in a perfect setting

The pleasure — too mild a word, privilege — of going to Drottningholm is so intense that to harbour even mild reservations seems childish and ungrateful. It is not just that miraculously time-capsule of a theatre, unchanged in essentials since 1766 and still in full working order: the sweep of lakeside lawns where guests may safely graze; the palace's baroque gardens just round the corner; that very special, Magritte-like Nordic light playing on buildings and landscape after the final curtain; not least the welcoming smile of Elisabeth Söderström, chateleine and artistic director these past four years. Drottningholm remains one of the greatest joys known to the operatic beast.

Orphée et Eurydice Drottningholm

The theatre has done well by Gluck's *Orphée*. The original version (1762, Vienna) has been a staple of the repertoire there since the 1770s, with a famous contemporary painting to prove it. Four years ago they did Gluck's first revision (Paris, 1769) for soprano rather than alto castrato, this year the Paris version (1774) for tenor voice. Staging, of course, varies little; they have the original 18th-century sets and very properly use them, and to have anything other than period costumes would be doubly.



In fine voice: Amor (Max Emanuel von Vojnic-Cencic) and Orpheus (Greg Fedderly)

shape of the melody was lost in a reckless hetero-skelet. This was conducting by the book — some book of theory, that is, insufficiently digested — dogmatic, heedless of what the music was composed to express. Not altogether surprisingly, the orchestra was way below its best form.

In these circumstances, Greg Fedderly's singing of the title role was something of a triumph. He sounded unfazed by lines that he mercilessly fielded a sweet head-voice not, as yet, quite joined to chest tones that he used more generously than an 18th-century *kaucon* would have done. But he is a musical and graceful performer.

Eva Osterberg (*Eurydice*) could do little with the speed of her aria (too fast), any more

RODNEY MILNES

Chilling out and catching the fever

KUHO FESTIVAL

mechanical accounts that too often characterise the jet-setting circuit. The dress code is relaxed — T-shirts are the preferred attire for performers — and the festival administration includes no fewer than three "sauna officers". Yet this summer saw a profoundly searching performance of Haydn's *Seven Last Words* by the Lindas, a stunningly accomplished interpretation of

Schoenberg's Third Quartet by the Vellingsers, and an admirable rendering of one of the same composer's Second Quartet by the Vertovos. The soprano soloist in the Vertovos, Claudia Baralinsky, accompanied by Konstantin Bogino, gave excellent accounts of songs by Webern and Berg. A new Górecki clarinet quintet failed to materialise, but a single-movement piano quartet by the Finnish composer Seppo Pohjola, commissioned by the festival, impressed by its powerfully

sustained momentum and strongly individual idiom.

The great event of Kuhmo is the Saturday night Chamber Music Festival. With occasional breaks to enjoy the crimson sunset over Lake Lammasjärvi, the Fever rages until the early hours, offering a single, concentrated burst of activity.

One or two seasoned Kuhmo-watchers wondered aloud whether this year's Fever really caught fire, and whether this reflected a subtle shift of priorities in the administration of the festival. Kuhmo's founder and artistic director, Seppo Kimmunen, assured me that he had no intention of sacrificing the unique "spirit of Kuhmo" for the sake of prestige appearances. We all hope he keeps his word.

BARRY MILLINGTON

LONDON

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, witty and carefully edited edition of the Bard's works, now in its 10th year, is back. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-381 1737) Wed-Sat, 8pm; Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 8pm; Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 8pm.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

MOSE ALLISON TRO The Louisiana pianist, composer and singer Mose Allison — renowned for the day, being set of his songs — begins a six-night residency with the usual members of his trio: Paul Clarke, drums, and Roy Babbington, bass. On Saturday, the trio is joined for one night only by the soul-jazz guitarist Jim McLean. PizzaExpress, Dean Street, W1 (0171-381 8722), Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm.

MEMBERS IN THE CATHEDRAL Performed in Rome, but to judge by Art-Inter Ocean's last production seen here, the magnificent Richard II, with the same director and actor (Mina Mandel, Marcel Lurel), language will be no bar to a powerful performance. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-389 4400), Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm. Until August 10.

ELSEWHERE BLACKBURN: Martin Leigh conducts the North Cheshire Orchestra in their

cabaret programme drawn from the classics of American popular song. Astor, Sturges Road (01304 365 077), Tonight, 8pm.

POOL Pick a piece and join the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for a Prom in the Park. Nicolas Moutoussis conducts a programme of dance music, including Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, and Sibelius's *Finlandia*. The Royal Albert Hall, London (0171-462 1322), 8pm. Tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES British Museum: 20th-century Chinese Painting, Tradition and Innovation (0171-462 1322). Courtyard Gallery: The Royal Academy 1996 (0171-462 1322). Liaison Gallery: Victor Burgin, Dan Graham, Rodney Graham, John Hilliard (0171-724 2733). Mollie's Gallery: Deane (0171-747 2885). National Portrait Gallery: Family Albums (0171-330 0055). The Photographers' Gallery: Philip Lorca Shapira (0171-531 1772). Tate: New Displays (0171-487 8000). V & A: The Legion of Honour: William Morris (0171-958 6500). Whitechapel: The Open (0171-522 7888).

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre openings in London

House full, tickets only **Seats at all prices**

THE ODD COUPLE Jack Klugman, Tony Randall play the two divorced husbands, who happen to be in a room together. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-389 8800), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 8pm.

PAINT YOUR MIND First London revival of the Lerner and Loewe musical since 1953. Tony Blair in the lead. The Old Vic, London (0171-462 1322), 8pm. Tonight, 8pm.

THE LIGHTS Howard Nodine's drama of a journey through the New York night scene. Ends with the cast escaping the theatre, literally, because the fire alarm will be raised. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1746), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3.30pm. Until August 11.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish chamber play. The Old Vic, London (0171-462 1322), 8pm. Tonight, 8pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET Lucy Whynor's Juliet is one of the better things in Adrian Noble's production. The Old Vic, London (0171-462 1322), 8pm. Tonight, 8pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Gillian Macey's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country

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Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

Knight Frank
SECRETARY
WEST END

Knight Frank is a private and independent Partnership of International property consultants who provide a full range of property services to both Commercial and Residential sectors.

A vacancy has arisen for a highly polished, bright, pro-active and experienced secretary/PA to work for a Proprietary Partner.

The position will require excellent administrative and organisational skills and the ability to communicate effectively at a senior level with Regional Partners on a regular basis. A confident manner is equally essential as you will be actively involved in the co-ordination of regional conferences and meetings.

The suitable applicant must have excellent skills (65 wpm, audio, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint), a good sense of humour, a flexible attitude and the ability to cope well under pressure. In return we offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter stating your current salary level to: Ms Alex Weatherley, Recruitment Officer, Knight Frank, 20 Hanover Square, London W1R 0AH. Knight Frank are an equal opportunities employer.

Project
Co-ordinator
£16,000 - £17,000

Newchurch & Company is an innovative and respected provider of research and financial and strategic advice to senior managers and policy makers in social businesses, in particular Local and Central Government and the NHS. We employ 43 people and anticipate year on year growth of some 20%.

We currently require a project co-ordinator to provide high level secretarial and administrative support to the consulting staff and directors of our Government group, working primarily in Local Government and Education. You will assist in producing reports and presentations and organise meetings, travel arrangements and diaries. As you will be in regular telephone contact with our customers, you will have confident communication skills. Initiative is also key to this role as you will need to answer queries without reference to managers and be able to prioritise both your own and other people's time.

We are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic and energetic individual, with good organisational and typing skills (50wpm), knowledge of Apple Mac computers and Word, Excel and Power Point applications.

Applications, with full c.v. by 9 August 1996 to: Sue Bocken, Newchurch & Company Limited, 24 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NQ

Working for the future of Sport

The present Sports Council is about to be replaced by two new bodies. One of which, the United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC), will be responsible for a defined range of functions relating to national and international sports, including doping control, strategic planning, education and training and the development of sporting excellence, which will be needed to prepare UK sports for a future of changing conditions and new challenges.

Unit
Secretary/Administrator

Salary £15,700 - £19,600pa inclusive

The UKSC's International Affairs Unit will be concerned with a wide range of issues and projects of international sport. As Unit Secretary/Administrator you will provide a comprehensive service which calls for experience, confidence and good second European language proficiency, preferably French.

You will be applying your secretarial and admin skills, making appointments and travel arrangements, preparing agendas for meetings and liaising for visits and using your initiative in communicating with a variety of people and participating in many aspects of the Unit's work. An interest in sport, while not essential, would obviously add to the satisfaction.

For further information and an application form, please contact 0171 387 0022 (24 hour answering machine). Alternatively, write to Andrew Talbot, Human Resources Unit, The Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0GF. Please quote ref: 08496. CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 16 August. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted within 4 weeks of the closing date.



An Equal Opportunities Employer. The Sports Council is an equal opportunities employer.

A CHANCE TO USE YOUR SKILLS
AT THE LEADING EDGESenior Secretary - Technical Services
c.£15,000

SABRE is the world's most advanced computerised reservations system for travel agents. As part of the AMR and American Airlines group of companies, we have an international reputation for delivering product performance and customer service which has won us consistent growth - and an even brighter future.

We now have an opportunity for an experienced, senior level Secretary to join us at our Hounslow offices, working for the Director of Technical Services. If you want more responsibility, new challenges and a faster pace to add spice to your career, this is your ideal chance.

This is a key role which demands highly professional communication and organisational skills, initiative and quick thinking. We are looking for first rate secretarial skills and good PC literacy. Experience of using spreadsheets and Word for Windows is essential. Knowledge of Powerpoint and Excel would give you an extra advantage.

In return, we offer a competitive salary package, which includes AA airline benefits and the career prospects you could only find with a truly global organisation. To apply please send your CV, quoting reference ST'S, to Personnel Department, SABRE Europe Management Services Ltd, MD12, 33-59 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3HE.



Director's Secretary

Excellent salary and benefits available depending on relevant experience.

Working for a busy, private Holding Company at their small Mayfair Office, you will have a very varied workload, including certain personal work. You must be able to operate under pressure, while retaining a good telephone manner and a cheerful disposition. Exposure to a financial environment would be useful but not essential.

Skills 100/60.

Please send CV with covering letter, including your current salary expectations to: Helen Blease, 14 Chesterfield Street, London W1X 7HF

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
c.£20,000 pa + benefits
Wandsworth Common SW18
PHARMACEUTICAL
CONSULTANCY

Our consultancy advises US-based clients on European product development. As the Managing Director's PA, already experienced at senior level (poss. consultancy background), you must be Mac literate, have sound knowledge of Word 6, Filemaker Pro, Excel, Powerpoint and 60 wpm typing. Educated to at least 'A' level or equivalent, ability to work on own initiative and manage office systems. Hard-working, informal environment with opportunities for development for a strong, confident personality. Non-smoker. Send CV with letter to GABA PHARMA GROUP, 52 WESTOVER ROAD, LONDON SW18 2RH or fax 0181 875 1137.

MATURE SECRETARY
to £20,000

Multinational Mayfair based company whose worldwide operations span a variety of business activities including investments, Real Estate, Transport, Industry & Distribution is looking for a socially confident, mature Shorthand Secretary to work alongside the Chairman's Executive Assistant. Whilst this is predominantly a 9-5 job, the need for flexibility is essential. The position encompasses sole responsibility for several interesting projects and the office accommodation is luxurious to say the least!

Susan Doughty Recruitment,
39A Curzon Street, London W1Y 7BP
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171 491 7922

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/P.A.

Required for Executive Directors of large broking house in the City. At least 7/10 years secretarial experience, preferably at Director level. Minimum 100 w.p.m. shorthand 60 typing. Audio an advantage but not essential. Candidates should be able to cope under pressure, be presentable, flexible and adaptable and have a pleasant telephone manner. Windows/Excel packages. Non smoker preferred. Around 35/40 years of age. Salary circa £20,000/£23,000 p.a.

Please Reply to Box No 7821

Property PA/Office manager
Mayfair £19,000

Looking for a one to one role? Do you like working for small Co? Do you have fast shorthand and are computer literate? Our young dynamic client seeks a mature PA who will be involved in all his projects. The company designs and finances property developments. This is a very varied role and is immediately available.

Call Carousell on 0171 734 7277 or Fax on 0171 734 7278.

SECRETARY

Salary up to £18,000 plus benefits

Excellent opportunity to join dynamic insurance brokers in Secretary to Director and be part of a young team in a key department. We are seeking an enthusiastic candidate and can offer opportunities for career development.

Skills required are good typing speed, word processing and using WWW, Powerpoint and XL. Higher level academic qualifications will be an advantage. Please write enclosing your CV to: Helen Bishop Lloyd Thompson, Assistant Secretary, 15 St Nicholas Street, London EC3R 2LT

Famous Film Co. urgently

requires PA to Head of Legal and Business Affairs. Busy & involved role. Legal experience essential. 50 wpm WP required. Suit corporate PA/Sec.

C.F. Ag 0171 795 1362



Quality Department

AUDIT OFFICER

£15,103 - £17,928 pa inc

This is a new post in a section which has a dual role, providing clerical and information support to Medical, Nursing and Operational audit throughout the hospital and assisting in the development and monitoring of quality standards.

Ideally you should have experience of servicing Committees, recording minutes and compiling agendas.

You may be involved with the development of performance indicators for all areas within the hospital, which would entail participating in evaluative research connected with service developments and quality assurance.

This is a varied post involving close liaison with senior staff. Previous NHS experience would be an advantage. Knowledge of word processing, database and spreadsheet packages is essential.

For an application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, City Road, London, EC1V 2PD on 0171 253 8411 ext. 2438.

Closing date for receipt of application forms: 16th August 1996.

Working Towards Equality of Opportunity

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust

PA TO PARTNER

Our London-based international Partner is looking for an experienced PA to assist him in developing an international construction consultancy business.

The position requires excellent organisational and communication skills and the ability to work effectively both independently and within a team.

The successful candidate is unlikely to be under 25 and will be required to demonstrate flexibility and commitment.

Ideally you should have experience in AmPro, Freelance and Shorthand (cross training available for right candidate).

Salary negotiable

Please reply with full career details and salary expectations to Mrs Julie Pollock, Turner & Townsend, Construction Consultants, 10 Bedford St, London WC2E 9HE

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Forget Huge Overtime
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Secretaries
All Industries

£15k - £17k + Exceptional Benefits

Can't make your mind up regarding which industry you want to work in? No problem, if you have formal secretarial training, typing at 50wpm and knowledge of Word for Windows, with Excel and Powerpoint being advantageous - Call now to find out what golden opportunities await you.



BANKING

We have been retained by a major City institution and currently have a number of roles offering excellent benefits, plenty of scope and career prospects. If you have a strong financial background, good Secretarial skills and are aged 18 to 35 call our City specialists for an immediate interview. These are just a few of our current City vacancies.

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- Client Services £22k
- Training Department £18k

Temp to Perms

- Media & Telecom/Fluent German £21k
- Business Development/ Figures & Budget Exp. £20k
- UK Group/2-5 yrs exp at Dir level £20k

Call now for an interview in the City or West End.

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HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES

For first class long and short term assignments, including temp to perm situations. Pan European should be your first port of call.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS
(Min 90 wpm)

- Team Secretary (Personal) Indefinite
- Director's Secretary (Leisure) 6 weeks
- PA/Secretary (Building Society) 4 weeks

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS
(Min 80 wpm)

- IT Secretary (Banking) 6 weeks
- P/T P/A Office Manager Indefinite (Finance)
- Team Secretary (Management Cons.) 4 weeks

If you have good shorthand/audio skills, are aged between 20-40 and have working knowledge of Windows packages:

FOR CITY AND WEST END INTERVIEWS

call 0171 734 8484

or Fax us on 0171 734 8501

Executive
Secretary

Director needs P.A. for day-to-day running of property development/ investments, financial affairs, a small charity or other business affairs. Office in a converted 17th century barn in Chiswick. Graduate or equiv. 26-34, shorthand, computer lit. Financial/accounting skills. 2y experience at senior level in a major firm essential. Approx 5 day week c.£15,000.

Please Fax 01933 873333

Use your creative flair!
£18,000 + O.T. + Exc Bens

Leading international company is seeking a DTP secretary to provide proactive administrative support to a lively team and prepare presentations and corporate literature using Pagemaker and Freelance or Powerpoint. If you have an unflappable approach to your work, a great sense of humour, sound knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel and 60wpm typing, please call Maggie on 0171 437 6032 to arrange an immediate interview.

DESIGN

West London
to £26,000

This market leading international telecommunications company has an exciting opportunity for someone wanting a challenging and demanding role in a progressive company. Working within marketing you'll act as a lynchpin, organise all the marketing activities and play a key role in the department. You'll need to have had an involved role in the past, preferably within marketing, and have one additional language together with an enthusiastic approach. Word, Powerpoint and Excel useful and 40wpm typing minimum a must.

Call Caroline Galen on 0171 437 6032.

RECRUITMENT

Exceptional PA!
Excellent Salary + Benefits

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a PA to the Chief Executive Officer of a major international corporation based in the West End. In addition to your solid secretarial skills, you will either have experience of working within a Japanese company at senior level and/or have the ability to converse in Japanese. This is a high profile role where you will have to interface with international clients at the highest level and ensure that the company's impeccable standards are maintained in everything that you do. In return you will be generously rewarded and work in a superb environment.

Phone Sharon Hawkins on 0171 437 6032.

RECRUITMENT

CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE
£18000 S.W.1.

Delightful director of long-established vintage champagne/wine distributors urgently needs a poised PA. You'll arrange social events and conferences, run the office and his life. It's hectic at times, so his and your early sense of humour will be appreciated. So will your SH. Age 22 - 28.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW
RECRUITMENTPA to Sales Director
Broadcasting Company, Centre Point
£18K with excellent benefits

We are looking for an unflappable PA with bags of initiative, impeccable skills and presentation with reasonable shorthand to co-ordinate this fast-moving, friendly sales department in bright offices based at the top of Centre Point.

The ideal candidate will have a mature outlook and have worked in a busy sales/marketing environment with thorough knowledge of MS Office/Powerpoint.

Please send CV to Cathy Miles, Metro Networks (UK) Limited, 29th Floor, Centre Point, London WC1A 1DD.

No Agencies

Excellent Pay
Holiday Pay
Full Benefits Package

We currently require experienced secretaries with 60wpm for a variety of temporary opportunities within this prestigious international organisation.

- Do you have?
- Minimum of 2 years' secretarial experience
- Excellent W4W skills
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RACING: GORDON STAKES WINNER AIMS FOR DONCASTER CLASSIC

St Mawes bolsters Leger claim with game display

By JULIAN MUSCAT

GLORIOUS Goodwood opened yesterday with St Mawes registering a victory for absent friends. Neither his owner, Lord Swaythling, nor his intended jockey, Willie Carson, were on hand to witness his narrow defeat of Chief Contender and Storm Trooper in the Westminster Taxil Insurance Gordon Stakes, but both can anticipate the St Leger with a sense of optimism.

A frustrating character in the spring, St Mawes may finally be ready to embrace maturity. The blinkers he wore for the first time sharpened him to the extent that Kevin Darby, deputising for the injured Carson, always looked comfortable from a position well adrift of the pace. This time, when asked for his effort, St Mawes responded manfully. He has wavered more than once in the past.

Darby later outlined his concern when Storm Trooper struck from home, some 2½ furlongs from the finish, when trapped behind a wall of weakening horses. The jockey said: "For a while I thought it might cost me the race, but the

horse surprised me with his acceleration."

"Mawes had to battle hard to beat Chief Contender by a head, with Storm Trooper, who failed to stay this 12 furlongs, a neck further adrift in third place. Favourable mention must be made of Moa, who finished with a flourish in fourth after a three-month absence. He will improve considerably when the ground eases."

John Dunlop, who trains St Mawes, holds the chestnut in high regard. He had no hesitation in regarding the St Leger, for which St Mawes has more than adequate stamina. Although one must question whether his performance was up to classic standard, Dunlop maintained: "Take Shaamit

out of the equation and the three-year-olds he beat here are just about what you are left with."

Peter Chapple-Hyam, whose Desert Boy appeared another non-stayer, was pleased with Chief Contender. A son of Sadler's Wells, Chief Contender found the ground plenty fast enough and will renew rivalry with St Mawes at Doncaster. The Manton trainer reported that Nash House is to reappear in the Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock later this month. And Spectrum, who damaged muscles at Newbury in May, is on course for the Juddmonte International Stakes.

Michael Blanshard saddled his first group winner when the inappropriately named Rambling Bear stormed up the stands' rail to deprive Hever Golf Rose in the King George Stakes over five furlongs.

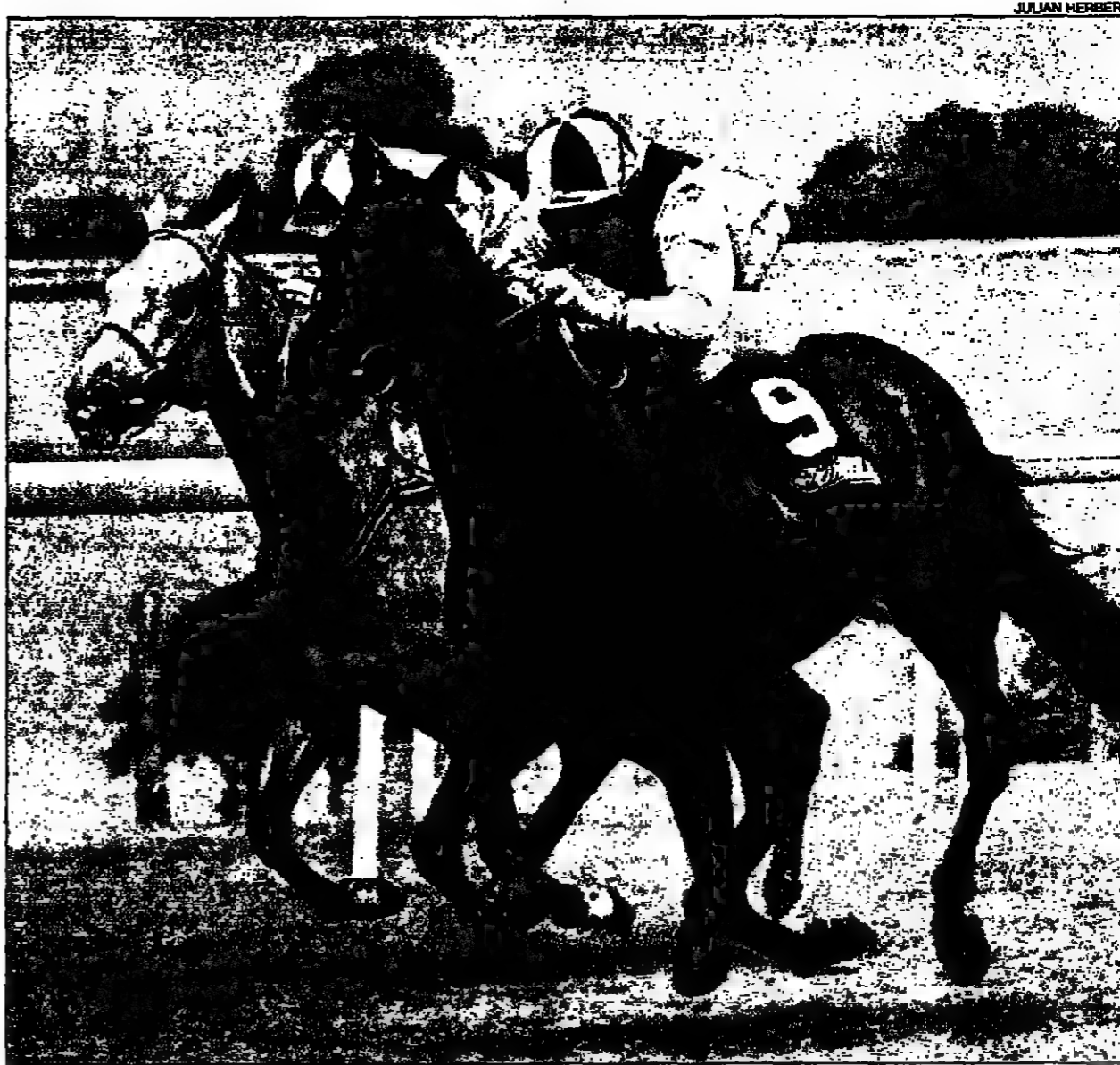
Last of 14 runners with 1½ furlongs remaining, Rambling Bear triumphed in almost identical circumstances to Hever Golf Rose 12 months ago.

Neil Graham has certainly got the most out of Thrilling Day, whose lack of stature, at

less than 15 hands, officially merits her description as a pony. Her ample heart more than compensates however, and she was at her best in the Oak Tree Stakes over seven furlongs. On this evidence, Thrilling Day may continue to surprise, better-fancied opponents over what is entirely a specialist's distance.

A different sort of specialist was attending Thrilling Day's part-owner, Lord Howland, who underwent emergency surgery when damaging his hip in France on Monday evening. He will have received the perfect tonic, particularly as Thrilling Day, a granddaughter of the Queen Mary Stakes winner, Pushy, has further extended the influence of the Bloomsbury Stud's marvellous foundation mare, Mrs Moss.

Thrilling Day will herself retire to Bloomsbury, thereby adding a fourth generation to a line started when Lady Tavistock, almost out of pity for the much-maligned Mrs Moss, bought the mare at public auction for small change. Mrs Moss's legacy has become one of the finest treasures at the family's Woburn estate.



Grand Selection deprives the grey Silver Groom of a repeat win in the William Hill Handicap at Goodwood yesterday

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER
2.15 Sea Victor
2.45 Imperial President
3.20 First Island

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 Imperial President, 3.20 Charnwood Forest (nap), 3.50 Frog.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.15 MARRIOTT HOTELS GOODWOOD HANDICAP (215,010; 2m 4f) (10 runners)

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Jaunty Yorkshire settle an old score

National Westminster Bank Plc

It was Justin Rose's sixteenth birthday yesterday and the lean, lanky youngster from North Hants reached the second round with a 4 and 3 victory over Nick Isherwood, of Beau Desert.

 *Sum*

By ROBERT S. LUTZ
In the previous column, we saw how
war the hand would win. Now
after the auction.

W	N
Pass	1 C
Pass	2 C
Pass	3 H
All Pass	Pass

Senior left the table with a 10-10-4-4
Dealer North

Contract: 3 NT redoubler

[illegible]

WORD
By PH
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The Sny
Sappho
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akes
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Great Northern Divers
Work quotas

OLYMPIC GAMES

Magnificent men
look up to Nemov
the flying machine

THE wine was all gone, the glasses now held smaller and more potent things and talk turned to fantasy. The table buzzed with the fantasy life of people whose task it is to report fantasy and to do so on a daily basis here at the Games.

If you had the required gifts, which Olympic event would you choose to excel at? Around the table we went, one colleague citing the marathon and the crushing of pain, another, quirkily, the high jump and the conquest of gravity, a third, the 1,500 metres and its revelation of character.

I opened my mouth, not a rare occurrence, to speak of the 100 metres and the Fastest Man in the World, but found myself heading in a direction my mind had not intended at all. Again, not a rare occurrence.

Men's gymnastics, I said. The greatest athletes of them all. My friend, Dr Craig Sharpe, professor of bio-mechanics, even has the figures to prove it. For strength, power, flexibility, aerobic and cardiovascular efficiency and all kinds of other things, these people are the most nearly perfect athletes in sporting creation.

And to be more particular, I continued, the high bar, the event in which a man takes on the power of flight and soars. Surely this is the ultimate revelation of strength, power and grace under pressure.

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

And so I had to go to the final event of the sport they call, rather preciously, "artistic gymnastics", in which models are awarded for performance on each individual bit of apparatus; and I concentrated my mind on the high bar. On the men who can fly. This is the most spectacular event of the Games. The men "sort of turn themselves into a football rattle" as Carol Thatcher said vividly when she came to the Olympics in Seoul. The high points of each routine, literally, are the release-and-catches, when you let go of the bar and hover above the earth before gently seizing the bar once again. At its best, the timing is so perfect that the re-grasping seems nothing more than the continuation of flight.

ELISE AMENDOLA



Nemov takes the gold medal in the individual vault

The supreme release-and-catch move is the Kovacs, when you perform a flying somersault then stretch out a nonchalant hand or two to grasp the bar again if it happens to be passing. It is a poor person whose heart does not soar with the gymnasts at these moments.

Yes, my colleagues said, it's all very well but it's an imperfect sport, isn't it, as all the judged sports must be, which makes it an unsatisfactory business. How can they separate one near-perfect athlete from another and by one hundredth of a mark?

It is a charge to which gymnastics must plead no contest, but that does not diminish the athletes. Nor does it stop Alexei Nemov, member of the victorious Russia team, winner of the individual gold for the vault, silver in the all-around competition and bronze on pommel and floor, from being one of the supreme athletes of these Games.

And so, at last, to the shoot-out on the high bar. The marginal favourite was a Spaniard, wonderfully named Jesus Carballo, world champion and famous for his "inverted" moves, impossible swings performed with shoulders more or less inside out. Alas, he fell, leaving the German, Andreas Wecker, in control after a strong, accurate performance.

Enter Nemov. He out-gunned his rivals with a move never before seen in competition: a piked Kovacs. The somersault above the bar was performed with straight legs, twice as difficult, twice as beautiful.

Sensation. The judges said he was not as good as Wecker. The way opened for Krasimir Dounev, of Bulgaria, whose fiery repertoire included six successive release-and-catch moves. Wonderful entirely, but the judges placed him below Wecker, giving him silver and awarding three bronzes for a third place shared by Nemov, Vitaliy Scherbo and Fan Bin.

But Nemov got my gold, for his flight, his piked Kovacs and a return to the bar that was soft as a butterfly's kiss. Rather a passionate butterfly.



Ainslie finishes sixteenth in the ninth race of the Laser series, a result he cannot afford to repeat with a medal in sight

Ainslie prepares for showdown

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SAVANNAH

THE mathematics are brutal: simple. Ben Ainslie, 19, Britain's youngest ever Olympic sailor, is two points behind Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, going into the last race in the Laser class today and has to beat him and put at least two boats between them to win a gold medal.

Ainslie has got to be careful, though. If the Brazilian double world champion manages to sail him down to below sixteenth place, then Ainslie will surrender the silver medal position to the third-placed Peer Moberg, of Norway.

Another possible scenario is if Ainslie wins and Scheidt comes third. Then the pair will end up with exactly the same score on points, but Ainslie will win overall by virtue of having three second places to the Brazilian's two. They will both have accumulated three firsts. It is that close. Undoubtedly, it is the most

important race of Ainslie's young life and even a silver medal will be an incredible achievement for a teenager who, early last year, was still planning to make his Olympic Games debut at Sydney in 2000.

In the past 12 months, his improvement has been dramatic and consistent and, although he is certainly still a long way from reaching his full potential, he is already talked about in the Royal Yachting Association as the "sailor of his generation" and someone with a natural gift to make a boat go fast on a par with Lawrence Smith. This could be the first of many Olympic campaigns for him.

His battle with Scheidt has been a feature of the Olympic regatta. The two yachtsmen are very similar. Like Ainslie, the Brazilian is a quiet, unassuming individual and a good sport who is dedicated to his sailing. Like Ainslie, he showed natural flair at the young age, capturing the



world youth championship in the class at the age of 18, as Ainslie did after him. Now 24 and a student from Rio de Janeiro, he has gone on to win two back-to-back world titles, beating Ainslie into third place when he retained his title earlier this year in South Africa.

The Brazilian's strengths are a lot to do with the extra experience five years more time on the water has given him. He has the confidence of his two world championship victories and the knowledge that he can produce the goods when the pressure is on. Scheidt is also particularly fast in heavy conditions, where his extra weight helps him.

Nevertheless, Ainslie can and has beaten him. Scheidt likes to win from the start, but Ainslie is so quick down wind

that the Brazilian will not be able to relax, even if he is well ahead up the first beat. Scheidt is not happy sailing in a pack of boats and likes space around him. Ainslie is a more aggressive character on the water and at his best in tight corners.

Mark Littlejohn, who was third behind him in last year's Olympic trials, believes Ainslie can win today, so long as he attacks from the start. "My advice to Ben would be to attack Scheidt to get him on the defensive. Ben is a fast starter and usually comes off the line quickly, but he must make sure the boat to windward is Scheidt," he said.

Littlejohn, who is 15 years Ainslie's senior, also knows to his cost that the teenager is still dangerous when behind late in a race. "If I was ever ahead, he would always go into a quicker gear. His intense concentration is greater than anyone I have ever seen. He is incredibly tough, a born winner," he said.

Argentine training methods scrutinised

The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) is investigating claims that the Argentine showjumping team allegedly used improper or illegal training methods while at their pre-Olympic training site on the Pine Top Farm in Georgia.

A German three-day event rider, who had to stay behind at the farm, told a German television commentator that he had seen the Argentines using bars with nails in them and bars with wire stretched above them in their training sessions.

The FEI, who were forced to investigate after the commentator announced the allegations on German television, said "a proper judicial process" would start as soon as they had a written statement from the event rider.

Lomans on song

Hockey: Bram Lomans turned from decoy to executioner as Holland crushed South Africa 4-1 on Monday to finish top of group A. The win sets up a semi-final clash with their great European rivals Germany; the other semi-final will be between Spain and Australia.

Lomans had acted merely as a decoy at corners, but all that changed when he was allowed to take strike against the South Africans. He scored from two in the first half; in between, Marc Delissen, the captain, scored his 98th international goal; and Taco van den Honert grabbed the fourth.

Australia made sure of filling the remaining places in the semi-final line-up with a 2-0 win over Britain - the only other country still in with a chance of qualifying - in their final group match. Mark Hager and Jay Stacey scored well-taken open play goals.

Asian champions, South Korea, beat Malaysia 4-2. They now play India in the fifth-eighth place play-offs and Britain tackle Pakistan today.

Miller's gold

Gymnastics: Shannon Miller, of United States, capped a great career with her first individual title in a rousing women's finale. Miller, twice a world all-round champion and winner of six previous Olympic medals, won gold with a graceful beam routine.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the Premier League match between Sowter and Hackett, this was the hand with the biggest potential swing. As West, what would you lead from:

♠764	♥J10652	♦92	♣K4
W	N	E	S
—	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	2C	Pass	2S
Pass	3H	Pass	3NT
Pass	4H	Pass	Redouble
All Pass			

after this auction:

W	N	E	S
—	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	2C	Pass	2S
Pass	3H	Pass	3NT
Pass	4H	Pass	Redouble
All Pass			

Senior led the nine of diamonds, which was disastrous:

Dealer North	East-West game	IMPs
♠A8	♠932	
♥KJ785	♥A8	
♦8763	♦Q83	
♣K4	♣AJ1062	
♠KQJ10	♥Q974	
♥A104	♦Q6	

Contract 3 NT redoubled, by South. Lead: nine of diamonds

The nine of diamonds picked up the diamond suit, and now South (Jason Hackett) had nine tricks. On the lead of the king of clubs, the defence made the first six tricks. The lead made a difference of 25 IMPs — our team-mates had gone off in 3 NT, played by North, at the other table.

So what do you think the pros and cons are of West's lead? I certainly don't think it is clear-cut. For a club to be right East has to have a suit good enough to beat 3 NT, but not good enough to overcall. There are no such restrictions on the diamond suit — East

could have had excellent diamonds, and not have been able to bid.

It is possible I should have doubled Two Clubs, but that would have diverted North-South from the theoretically unmakeable 3 NT. I think it is clear I should double 3 NT — if I pass it is all too likely that West will lead a spade (though that might have beaten the hand if declarer misguesses the diamonds).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GRIM'S DYKE
a. The Snyx
b. Sappho
c. The Antonine Wall
NORNS
a. Fates
b. Great Northern Divers
c. Work quotas

ROSCUIS
a. A rose-grower
b. An actor
c. A know-all
CHOUJANS
a. French sheepdogs
b. A Huron dialect
c. Peasant rebels

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

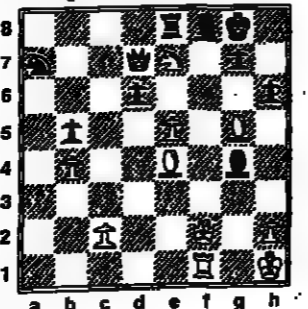
Topalov setback

Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster, suffered a setback when he lost in the eighth round of the elite tournament at Novgorod. Other competitors include Nigel Short, of Great Britain, Judit Polgar and Vladimir Kramnik. Ivanchuk's win featured a particularly fine attack.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Veselin Topalov
Novgorod, July 1996

1	♠4	♣8
2	♠8	♣4
3	♠4	♣4
4	♠4	♠6
5	♠3	♠6
6	♠2	♠6
7	♠0	♠6
8	♠4	♠0
9	♠1	♠0
10	♠4	♠6
11	♠3	♠6
12	♠3	♠6
13	♠4	♠6
14	♠6	♠6
15	♠6	♠6
16	♠6	♠6
17	♠6	♠6
18	♠6	♠6
19	♠6	♠6
20	♠6	♠6
21	♠6	♠6

Diagram of final position



White to play. This position is from the game Keller — Nievergelt, Zurich, 1960. It looks as if White can mount a dangerous attack with 1 Ne6, but then Black defends with 1... Qb2. How can White improve on this variation?

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNERS' MOVES

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Keller — Nievergelt, Zurich, 1960. It looks as if White can mount a dangerous attack with 1 Ne6, but then Black defends with 1... Qb2. How can White improve on this variation?

Solution, page 42

Archery

Women's individual

FIRST ROUND: Williamson (GB) 6-0 Broder (AUS) 106-141
SECOND ROUND: Zengshi Wang (CHN) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
THIRD ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
FOURTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
FIFTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
SIXTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
SEVENTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
EIGHTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
NINTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141
TENTH ROUND: Kim Eun-hee (KOR) 6-0 Hwanghyang (KOR) 106-141

Men's 400 metres

FINAL: 1. H. Johnson (US) 43.98sec; 2. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.02sec; 3. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 4. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 5. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 6. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 7. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 8. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 9. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 10. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 11. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 12. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 13. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 14. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 15. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 16. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 17. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 18. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 19. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 20. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 21. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 22. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 23. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 24. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 25. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 26. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 27. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 28. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 29. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 30. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 31. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 32. R. Scheidt (BRZ) 44.70sec; 33. D. Clarke (GB) 44.70sec; 34. R. 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ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



The name of Robin Hood may be forever feared by the rich and loved by the poor among the springboard-diving fraternity after events at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. The New Zealander of the same name was the referee overseeing a merry band of judges who, at midnight on Monday, redistributed a treasure long held by the United States, winner of every men's springboard title since 1924, bar two. The bounty went to Ni Xiong, gold, and Yu Zhoucheng, silver, both of China. Ni, 22, was winner of the highboard bronze medal in Barcelona and before that the silver medal in Seoul. "I'm very, very excited," a solemn Ni said. "This is my first gold." How would he celebrate? "I like to watch technical videos of diving." Not quite the cup of tea for Robert Morgan, Great Britain's highboard specialist, who was held by security after watching the springboard final. His crime? He had a few beers in his bag to share with his diving chums. Perhaps he should choose technical videos next time. **CL**

HOT SPOT

Ben Ainslie looks certain to win a medal in the Laser class of the Olympic yachting competition. The final race today sees Ainslie make his last bid for a gold medal, challenging Robert Scheidt, the world champion from Brazil. Ainslie, 19, would become Britain's youngest-ever Olympic medal winner and provide some much-needed relief for the British supporters. **TV: BBC1 from 1.40pm**

To compete in the Olympics, an athlete must achieve a qualifying standard. Even most close followers of the sport believed a month ago that Kenny Harrison, the 1991 triple jump world champion from the United States, did not possess the qualifying distance to take part in Atlanta. The United States federation (USATF) was among them. Harrison had not achieved the required 16.85 metres outdoors since the qualifying period began in January 1995, and USATF officials had told him indoor performances did not count. They might not have realised that not Ian Hodge, a leading international statistician, drawn attention to the fact that Harrison had achieved the standard indoors, 16 months earlier, and that it was acceptable. Hodge is British. The man who came second in the triple jump, Jonathan Edwards, is British. Hodge said that Edwards would have wanted Harrison there to validate the competition. He is probably right. Being fair-minded Brits, we would too. Are we all agreed? **DP**

Andre Agassi has hardly been moving mountains out at the Olympic tennis tournament in Stone Mountain Park, but he has been at the centre of the first recorded Olympic tennis riot. The American favourite for gold, was scheduled to play doubles with Melville Washington on the centre court when rain interrupted the afternoon's play and caused the match to be rescheduled for a smaller, outside court. The centre-court crowd, who had paid \$50 a ticket, were so angry they refused to let the matches continue. Tournament supervisor, Ken Farrar, was called to quieten the disturbance, but when riot police had been called in to stop centre-court ticketholders from infiltrating other courts, the match was transferred back to the centre court. The Americans promptly lost, but the crowd went home happy. Victory for Tim Henman and Neil Broad today, against the German pair of David Prinosil and Marc Gollner, would assure Britain of Olympic silver. Defeat means a play-off for bronze. **AL**

Understandably, the Israeli still take no chances with their Olympic athletes — a point underlined by the mysterious disappearance of the men's windsurfing bronze medal-winner, Gal Friedman, from Paredes-Hane, turned up at the "hot" yachting medal ceremony in Savannah on Monday evening like everyone else. He then received his cherished medal and set off with the other medal winners down a secure walkway to a specially prepared "mix zone" where the sailors were to meet the media. Israeli television and radio were there in force, but Friedman had disappeared. Officials could not account for it and concluded he had been swept away as a safety precaution. As one official put it: "The Israeli TV guys were just left standing, going 'where is he and what the hell's going on?'". He reckoned that Friedman had been nabbed by Israeli intelligence officers anxious that he should remain in the public eye for as little time as possible. **EG**

Being on home ground is not the only advantage the United States showjumpers have in the Georgia International Horse Park. Linda Allen, their innovative technical-course designer, is responsible for the courses and inadvertently gave the United States riders further help in Monday's qualifying round for the individual final. Her 14-fence course, artistically designed to reflect the landscape of south Georgia, contained a rustic over at the eleventh fence, which was directly facing the sun. Most of the horses drawn early in the competition were unable to see the back pole in the bright sun, and knocked it down. The four United States riders were all drawn in the second half when the sun had moved round. None faulted at the fence. When Paul Schockemöhle, the German trainer, pointed out this advantage afterwards, Allen replied that the draw was entirely fair because it was done by computer. "Yes... but it's an American computer," Schockemöhle drawled. **JA**

Perhaps the most enduring memory of these Games is the sight of Kari Strug, the United States gymnast, being carried by Bela Karolyi into the arena for the medal ceremony of the women's team event. Strug is a typical product of Karolyi, a girl who refuses to submit to the inconvenience of a damaged leg to reach sporting glory. With his wife Martha, Karolyi was the coach who nurtured Nadia Comaneci to her 1976 Olympic title. After the pair defected to the United States, they opened a gymnastics school. Their first success was Mary Lou Retton, the 1984 Olympic gold medal-winner. This year, both Strug and Dominique Moceanu, another member of the US team, have been trained by Karolyi. However, Jack Rockwell, the US gymnastics coach for two decades until 1994, believes Karolyi's harsh methods have destroyed many young gymnasts. "They were pretty good when they showed up at his gym but they were destroyed in their time with Bela and Martha," he said. **JG**

MEDAL TABLES									
	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze		
United States	24	28	12	Denmark	1	0	1		
Russia	16	15	18	Slovenia	1	0	1		
France	15	13	15	Yugoslavia	0	0	1		
China	11	11	10	Armenia	0	0	1		
Germany	11	11	10	Czech Rep.	0	0	1		
Italy	10	7	9	Ecuador	0	0	1		
Australia	7	7	16	Hong Kong	0	0	1		
Poland	6	6	6	Spain	0	0	1		
Ukraine	6	6	6	Bulgaria	0	0	1		
Romania	6	6	6	Sweden	0	0	1		
Hungary	6	6	6	Switzerland	0	0	1		
Cuba	6	6	6	Hungary	0	0	1		
South Korea	6	6	6	Latvia	0	1	1		
Japan	6	6	6	Norway	0	1	1		
New Zealand	6	6	6	Argentina	0	1	1		
Ireland	6	6	6	Costa Rica	0	1	1		
Turkey	6	6	6	Namibia	0	0	1		
Switzerland	6	6	6	Slovenia	0	0	1		
Canada	6	6	6	Uzbekistan	0	0	1		
Brazil	6	6	6	Georgia	0	0	1		
Belgium	6	6	6	Armenia	0	0	1		
South Africa	6	6	6	Malta	0	0	1		
Slovenia	6	6	6	Moldova	0	0	1		
Latvia	6	6	6	Mongolia	0	0	1		
Malta	6	6	6	Morocco	0	0	1		
Moldova	6	6	6	Algeria	0	0	1		
Mongolia	6	6	6	Tunisia	0	0	1		
Morocco	6	6	6	Uganda	0	0	1		
Algeria	6	6	6						
Tunisia	6	6	6						
Uganda	6	6	6						

□ At end of Monday's events

At end of Monday's events

Reports: Craig Lord, Andrew Longmore, Jenny Medhurst

Weather: bright Humidity: 65% Temperature: 74F

Reports: David Powell, Edward Gorman, John Goodbody

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ARCHERY: Men's first round (14.00) and final (19.00).
ATHLETICS: Men: Decathlon, 100m (14.00); pole vault, qualifying (14.30); decathlon, long jump (15.05); 200m, first round (15.45); decathlon, shot (16.45); decathlon, high jump (22.35); 200m, second round (23.15); 400m hurdles, semi-finals (00.15); discus, final (00.30); 3,000m steeplechase, semi-finals (01.00); 800m, final (01.50); decathlon, 400m (02.25); 5,000m, heats (02.55). Women: 1,500m, heats (15.00); 200m, first round (17.00); shot, qualifying (22.15); 100m

hurdles, semi-finals (22.45); triple jump, final (23.35); 200m, second round (23.45); 400m hurdles, final (00.40); 100m hurdles, final (02.10).
BADMINTON: Men's and women's doubles, finals (14.00); men's and women's singles, bronze medal matches (00.00); mixed doubles, bronze medal match (00.00).
BASKETBALL: Women: Quarter-finals (20.00, 22.00, 01.00 and 03.00).
BOXING: Quarter-finals: Flyweight, featherweight, light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (18.30 and 01.00).
CANOEING: First round and repechages: Men's K1 (14.00 and 19.30); men's C1 (14.50

and 20.00); women's K1 (15.20 and 20.20); men's K2 (15.50 and 20.40); men's C2 (16.30 and 21.10); women's K2 (17.00 and 21.30). All races over 500m.
CYCLING: Road: Men's road race (18.30).
DIVING: Women's springboard, semi-finals (18.30) and final (03.00).
EQUESTRIANISM: Individual dressage (13.30 and 20.00).
FOOTBALL: Men's semi-finals (01.00).
HANDBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Russia v Switzerland (17.00); Croatia v Sweden (19.30); Kuwait v United States (02.00). Pool B: Egypt v Spain (15.00); France v Germany (21.30); Algeria v Brazil (00.00).

HOCKEY: Men: Classification matches (13.30 and 16.00) and semi-finals (22.30 and 01.00).
TABLE TENNIS: Women's singles, bronze medal match and final (20.30); men's singles, semi-finals (00.00).
TENNIS: Women's singles, semi-finals (16.00); men's doubles, semi-finals (18.00); women's doubles, semi-finals (20.00).
VOLLEYBALL: Women: Classification matches (13.00); men's quarter-finals (18.30 and 00.30).
WRESTLING: Freestyle: Under 48kg, under 57kg, under 68kg, under 82kg and under 100kg, classification matches (14.30) and finals (20.30).
YACHTING: Women's Europe, final race; Laser, final race; Soling, match races (all 18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1
7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.35pm Essential Olympics, 10.25pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand
BBC2
5.35-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand, 8.30-10.30pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.30-3.0am Olympic Grandstand
Eurosport
24-hour coverage.

OLYMPIC GAMES: GOLD IN LONG JUMP COMPLETES RECORD TALLY AS RIVAL FALLS IN PIT OF DESPAIR

Timeless Lewis takes giant leap to greatness

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE sands of time were kind to Carl Lewis. They did not run out before he could complete the story of an Olympic legend. The sand he took away from him, in a polythene bag from the pit of the Centennial Stadium here, was his personal souvenir of the Monday night that, at 35, he won a fourth consecutive long jump gold medal.

He joined Al Oerter, discus champion from 1956 to 1972, as co-holder of a record four victories in the same event. He joined Paavo Nurmi (athletics), Larisa Latynina (gymnastics) and Mark Spitz (swimming) on the list of those who have won a record nine Olympic gold medals. He might have been looking at an outright record tenth gold in the sprint relay on Saturday but the United States have not selected him.

Roger Black said that not choosing Michael Johnson for the 4 x 400 metres in the 1991 world championships was

"the biggest mistake that the American selectors have ever made", but they have just surpassed it. Who in the world would not have wanted to see Lewis storming to victory, as he surely would have, on the last leg of the relay? One last run to send emotions as high as a last round from Ali or a valiant set from Navratilova.

Lewis, in a press conference performance as smooth as his sprinting, said he did not want to "whine and bicker because I do not want to spoil the moment". But it had to be said. It had to be said that he wanted, desperately, to run in the relay.

"The coaches decided on putting together a team they wanted to run and that is their decision, but I wish it was my decision because I would be there," the winner of five sprint golds said. "I would love to run in front of this great crowd. I have had every experience. The only experi-

ence left is to be the all-time gold medal-winner and it is a shame it is not up to me."

At no stage this season had Lewis looked the likely winner, not until he produced his victorious third-round jump of 8.50 metres. The path that had led him to that moment had been scarred with potholes. Having failed to qualify for the US team for the 100 and 200 metres at the trials, Lewis was perilously close to elimination from the long jump, too. He squeezed into the team, taking the third and last place, by three centimetres.

Again he was facing elimination when, in the qualifying round on Sunday, he was in fifteenth place with one chance to come. The pressure on, he jumped into first place. No wonder he said, as he walked into a packed press conference having won the final: "I want to know how you all got into my dream. I do not think I woke up this morning."

Fifteen minutes later Oerter

got into his dream. In a touching moment, no less so for it being stage-managed, Oerter appeared on the platform. After the two had embraced, Oerter stole the show for a moment. "Carl is making it too difficult," Oerter said. "This means I have to come back in the year 2000. I am 64 years old."

Then Lewis continued with a summary of his work ethic. "I think I have given a professional perspective," he said. "You have to present yourself well, you have to look good, you have to speak well." At his first Olympics, in Los Angeles in 1984, Lewis was jostled when he passed on his last jump. He did not take it here, either. He said he forgot in the commotion of his victory having been sealed. "What I remember about '84 is not the way people booed after the long jump but the way they cheered after the 200," Lewis said.

That is 12 years ago, about 16 hairstyles ago, no grey hairs ago, 15th age, miles and miles of training ago and thousands and thousands of screams from coach [Tom] Tellez ago. I have never felt the public has been bad with me. I am honoured to have been able to touch people's lives."

The contrast between Lewis's joy and the sadness on the sand-speckled face of Mike Powell, his long-time adversary in the long jump, as he was helped from the pit after aggravating a groin injury enriched the drama of the night.

"You want those Olympic experiences to last forever," Lewis said. "But I wanted that competition to end after the third round."

"When I wake up tomorrow I want to look at my clock and make sure it is the next day and that I did not wake up just this morning." He can put nine gold medals and a bag of sand by his bed as his alarm call to reality.



Lewis takes off on the way to a fourth consecutive gold medal in the long jump



Powell lies in agony in the sand after injury brought his challenge to an end

Double doubt for Gebrselassie

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE list of athletes who have won the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at the same Olympics, reads like a trumpet call of the Games: Hannes Kolehmainen, Emil Zatopek, Vladimir Kuts, Lasse Viren and Miruts Yifter.

The burden of emulating them may prove too much for Haile Gebrselassie, who took the gold medal in the 10,000 metres here yesterday and is hoping to complete the double on Saturday.

However, the Ethiopian badly damaged his leg in his epic 10,000-metre race with Paul Tergat, the Kenyan silver medal-winner. He was hobbling as he left the podium, but does not want to let down his supporters by pulling out of the 5,000-metre heats that begin today. He said: "They know I came for both events so I must run."

He criticised the track surface, saying: "It is impossible

to do 25 laps on this track. I don't know how they made this track. I cannot walk any more. When I finished my feet were hurting really badly."

The hard surface may have helped sprinters, but it seems to affect the legs of the long-distance runners.

The double world champion and record holder was severely tested by the Kenyans throughout an absorbing race. Paul Koeh did much of the early work as the Africans dominated the event, just as they did at the world championships in Gothenburg last year when they filled the first six places. In this 10,000 metres, the top eight runners to finish were Africans.

There is deep resolve in Gebrselassie, ever since 1980 when he defied his father by listening to his family radio to Yifter, his fellow countryman, complete the Olympic long-distance running double in Moscow, he has focused his

ambition on a title at these Games.

Gebrselassie is a man of the people in Ethiopia, declining to use the two Mercedes cars he won for his two victories at the world championships. They remain in a garage. He said: "I want to be like my people and if any people are poor you must live like them or they will turn against you."



Gebrselassie hurt

Perec can upstage Johnson

FROM DAVID POWELL

MICHAEL JOHNSON may become the first man to win the 200 and 400 metres at one Olympic Games, but he may not be the first athlete to accomplish that double here. Marie-Jose Perec, of France, won the women's 400 metres on Monday evening in the fastest time for ten years then confirmed that she would contest the 200 metres, starting today.

Perec recorded 48.2sec, leaving only Marita Koch, the world record-holder from the former East Germany, and Jarmila Kratochvilova, from Czechoslovakia, ahead of her in the all-time rankings. Koch's record is 47.60sec. Kratochvilova's best, 47.99, Perec had earlier declined to say publicly whether she was intending to double but said here: "I decided after my early season time of 22.29sec."

Koch's mark dates back to 1985, when East Germany's

drug-taking programme put the nation's women at the top of world sprinting and middle-distance running. "Now I will go for the second gold medal but, concerning the world record at 400 metres, I think it will be there forever," Perec said.

Perec holds one Olympic title more than Johnson, having won the 400 metres in 1992. Like Johnson, she is also the world champion. But, in the 200 metres, she faces stiffer opposition than the American, whose only genuine challenger appears to be Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia.

Perec is in a sea of contenders: Merlene Ottey, Irina Privalova, Carlette Guidry, Galina Malchugina, Darnette Young and Inge Miller. Any one of these could win. On times this season, Perec is ranked sixth of those entered, but her speed over 400 metres

suggests that she has more in hand for the half lap.

The eyes of Great Britain will look towards the women's triple jump final today for a potential fifth British medal of these Games. Ashia Hansen is one of probably six jumpers in contention for a medal.

Although she will almost certainly need to extend her British record of 14.66 metres to beyond 15 metres to do so, she looked, during qualifying, as though she is ready to go close to that barrier.

For the first time since 1968, Great Britain will not have a finalist in the men's 300 metres. When it is held today, Johnny Gray, of the United States, will be trying to win at the age of 36. This is his fourth Olympics. He was seventh in 1984, fifth in 1988, and third in 1992. "Seventh, fifth, third — two places up from third is what?" he beamed.

FORM GUIDE TO TODAY'S EVENTS

MEN

200 metres

RECORDS: World: 19.65sec (M. Johnson, USA) 1996; European: 19.72 (P. Berman, Italy) 1979; British: 19.87 (J. Pegg) 1984; Olympic: 19.73 (M. Johnson, USA) 1992.
1996 BEST: 19.65 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.72 (P. Berman, Italy) 19.87 (J. Pegg) 19.88 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.90 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.91 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.92 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.93 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.94 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.95 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.96 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.97 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.98 (M. Johnson, USA) 19.99 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.00 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.01 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.02 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.03 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.04 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.05 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.06 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.07 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.08 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.09 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.10 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.11 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.12 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.13 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.14 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.15 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.16 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.17 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.18 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.19 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.20 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.21 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.22 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.23 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.24 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.25 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.26 (M. Johnson, USA) 20.27 (M. 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Double-dealing and sleight of hand

Normally, I do not review The Bill (ITV), and for two very good reasons. The first is that its three-weekly episodes somehow all fall on evenings normally covered by my colleagues and the second... I'll come to shortly. Don't want to lose you quite yet.

This week, however, there is almost no avoiding the series, thanks to worried ITV executives who have sought to counter the perceived threat from the BBC and the Olympics by almost daily doses of Sun Hill. Actually, I thought the British team were doing a pretty good job of countering the Olympics themselves... but enough of such reasonable musings.

Anyway, the result is that after Monday night's repeated feature-length special it was back last night to what *The Bill* does best: cramming the maximum amount of plot into the minimum amount

of space. Having said that, however, by the time the commercials came along I was beginning to wonder how they were going to fill the second half.

After all, we had a body, we had a motive and we had a confession. No wonder DS Beech (Billy Murray) was looking pleased with himself. Now at this point it would be handy to have some sort of clever poker metaphor prepared, but I'm afraid I don't play cards and "he held all the aces" sounds rather feeble. So I won't try. Simon Tyrrell, the writer of this episode, however, is clearly a man who knows a flush from a full house.

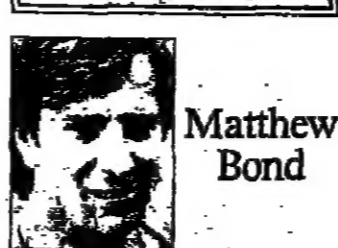
The body was that of a professional gambler, who had been run over in the early hours of the morning as he made his way back from "a spidery". "What's a spidery?" a character obligingly asked, some 90 seconds after I had wondered exactly the same. "It's an illegal gambling club," said

Beech, "with a two-grand fine. Thank you."

My education continued. I learnt that the King of Hearts is the suicidal king (have a look at his sword the next time you're playing patience) and that two aces and two eights were the "dead man's hand" of the title. Quite why, I wasn't certain, but I'm sure it will come in useful anyway.

But, just as it was in danger of becoming a little too technical, a little too elaborate... Snap! No, snap's not the right word either but you know what I mean. The plot had been well and truly shuffled. Turned out that our pro poker player had not been murdered at all, but had been run over as a result of an inopportune decision to combine chess and poker. The episode, crossing another quick look at the engagement ring he had just bought. It was an example of one of the great

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Sun Hill truths—that life is often a good deal less complicated than it initially seems.

We left Beech reflecting on that, as a confession turned to bluff. "You thought I had one sort of hand," taunted him (Jamie Foreman), who had means and motive but nothing else. "I just let you believe it." Beech looked like a man in need of a soothing game of clock patience.

Oh yes, the second reason I don't normally write about *The Bill*: My mother is one of its three producers and last night's was one of hers. Sorry, just the way fate deals 'em sometimes.

Still with me? Good, because Lynne Truss is back next week, so it won't happen again for ages. Let us move on and consider Tracks (BBC2), a programme that despite its title has nothing to do with the Olympic Games and everything to do with the British countryside.

But it is far from the haven of rural tranquillity you might imagine or even hope for. Instead, it belies along with lots of music, lots of graphics and lots of people trying to show you how to climb a Scottish mountain in less than five minutes. The only respite comes with the animated wildlife nature notes by the Rev Rupert Greene. Last night his chosen theme was water meadows—and very interesting they were, too.

Part of Mr Greene's appeal is that while he may only be a cartoon he has the considerable saving grace of being an amateur animation, a truly Cornish countryman. By contrast, the real people that surround him are too fervent for my liking, a little too anxious to show off their thoroughly researched expertise.

So, with presenter Lindsay Cannon providing the introductions, we met Ray Mears, the "wilderness expert" who had 101 ideas for things to do with fungi. A 102nd sprang to mind, but Mears looked like the sort of man who had a penknife attachment for just that. We also met two people who appeared to have found birdwatching too exciting. One had taken up feather collecting, the other, dragonfly spotting. Nick Fisher described the latter pastime as "sexy" three times in five minutes. I did not believe him.

Energy and enthusiasm the programme has in admirable abundance, but it is playing a dangerous game by portraying the countryside as a place reserved for an elitist bunch of whispering, cagoule-wearing, know-all. What's wrong with just enjoying it?

Finally, Genderquake (Channel 4), which came to an end last night having never quite recovered from the fact that if you are going to go round asking difficult questions such as "what is really happening in British industry?" just about the last person you would want answering them is former *East-Enders* star, Susan Tully—or any actor, come to that. Apparently the answer is "diversity, co-operation, feminism". Which just goes to show that if you ask an actor a silly question... you'll get a silly answer.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC2

6.00am Business Breakfast (16851)
7.00am Olympic Breakfast. The overnight action featuring Richard Phelps in the revamped modern pentathlon, which concluded last night. Plus the quarter-finals of the men's tennis, the badminton mixed doubles semi-finals, the football and hockey, including 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 news (s) (47122)

9.00am News (4686493)
9.05am Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights of the overnight action. Includes the gymnastics gala, yachting, badminton, football, hockey and boxing (s) (4686764)

12.35pm Neighbours. Lou kisses goodbye to a fortune and Michael tells her some home truths (s) (4648219)

1.00pm News & Weather (s) (57509)

1.30pm Regional News (12067219)

1.40pm Olympic Grandstand. Coverage of the first round of the 200m and the opening of the decathlon. There are also women's singles semi-finals in tennis, badminton and basketball (s) (46476035)

5.35pm Neighbours (r) (s) (597677)

6.00pm News & Weather (s) (219)

6.30pm Regional News (s) (869)

7.00pm The Essential Olympics. Chris Boardman and Max Scrandi compete in the gruelling 200km cycle road race. Plus live tennis, quarter-final boxing, a review of the day's athletics including the 200m and a look ahead to the 400m hurdles final (s) (78764)

8.30pm Holidays Out. A new series presented by Kirsty Young and Ben Sherwood looking at ideas for things to do in Britain during the summer (s) (8344)

9.00pm News, Regional News, Weather (s) (8753)

9.30pm Inside Story: The Lady Gums (s) (440144)

10.25pm Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces the latest action. Athletics: 10.45 Women's 100m hurdles semi-finals 11.15 Men's 200m second round. Featuring John Regis and Linford Christie 11.35 Women's triple jump final. Britain has high hopes of Ashia Hansen making this final 12.15 Men's 400m hurdles semi-final 12.30 Men's 400m hurdles semi-final 12.40 Women's 400m hurdles final. 1.00 Men's 3000m steeplechase semi-finals 1.50 Men's 800m final 2.10 Women's 100m hurdles final. 2.20 Yachting/Boxing 2.55 Athletics, featuring the decathlon and the men's 5000m 3.10 Athletics, badminton, table tennis, diving and volleyball (s) (83321035)

4.25pm Miss-Talkies. Jon Pliman demonstrates that it can go wrong if it goes wrong, with the aid of the BBC archives (s) (42710062)

4.40pm FILM: Silver Lode (1954). On the morning of his wedding, four men calling themselves marshals ride into town accusing the groom of committing a murder in the State of California. When his so-called friends refuse to help him out, he is forced to prove his innocence and reveal the marshals' lies in a climactic gunfight. With John Payne, Dan Duryea and Elizabeth Selt. Directed by Allan Dwan (1954/57)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusComes

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CHOICE

Survival Special: The Tigers Next Door (ITV, 8.00pm)

The safest way to go tiger-spotting is on the back of an elephant. One of the central sequences in this documentary from central India is a noisy confrontation between an elephant and the tiger cub which is trying to play with its tail. The elephant is not inclined to stand any nonsense. Ashish Chandra, the cameraman responsible for this film, also uses an elephant to get in close. The tiger footage is as magnificent as it is often poignant. An old and injured animal nearing the end of its life is a forlorn sight. But Chandra also explores the wider story of how India is trying to square the protection of rapidly declining species with the needs of poor villagers to scrape a living. The battleground is the forest, home to the tiger (and much other wildlife) but an essential source of wood for fuel.

Short Stories: Downward Nobility (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

The idea is so good that the film can hardly fail. And nor, thanks to skilfully tongue-in-cheek work by director, Dominic Allen, does it. His subjects are three members of the upper segment of society who have dropped out. The most extreme kicker over of the traces is Sophie Buchanan Watt, who is related to the Duke of Hamilton. For reasons not entirely clear she works as an exotic dancer at night clubs in New York. The decision of John Wrath, the son of a judge, to shave off his hair and play in a band is easily explained. He did not want to do what was expected of somebody of his background. Tony Hamilton, the grandson of a baronet, runs a pub and loves racing power boats against aristocrats who regard him as a job. Surprisingly, perhaps, the parents of the trio tend to be more supportive than appalled.

Inside Story: The Lady Gums (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Shirley, Amanda, Fiona and Barbara like nothing better than to head for a country estate and point their guns at a hapless pheasant. As it is still unusual for women to join men at a shoot, the director Carrie Britton has got herself a cracking subject. "She still behaves like a bit of a madam," says Amanda's husband, Ralph, adding that she will get more respect if she acts like a man. Amanda's riposte is not recorded. But Britton is not content just to follow a battle of the sexes. Her film is a revealing portrait of the landed gentry at play, pursuing a hobby that can cost them up to £30,000 a year while the beaters, whose job it is to drive the birds towards the stuns, are paid a mere £15 for a six-hour day. What tells Shirley and the other lady guns is that a Labour Government will make their sport illegal. Tony Blair will find no recruits here.

Double Exposure: A Relative Stranger (BBC2, 11.15pm)

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Double-dealing and sleight of hand

Normally, I do not review The Bill (ITV), and for two very good reasons. The first is that its three-weekly episodes somehow all fall on evenings normally covered by my colleagues and the second... I'll come to shortly. Don't want to lose you quite yet.

This week, however, there is almost no avoiding the series, thanks to worried ITV executives who have sought to counter the perceived threat from the BBC and the Olympics by almost daily doses of Sun Hill. Actually, I thought the British team were doing a pretty good job of countering the Olympics themselves... but enough of such reasonable musings.

Anyway, the result is that after Monday night's repeated feature-length special it was back last night to what *The Bill* does best: cramming the maximum amount of plot into the minimum amount

of space. Having said that, however, by the time the commercials came along I was beginning to wonder how they were going to fill the second half.

After all, we had a body, we had a motive and we had a confession. No wonder DS Beech (Billy Murray) was looking pleased with himself. Now at this point it would be handy to have some sort of clever poker metaphor prepared, but I'm afraid I don't play cards and "he held all the aces" sounds rather feeble. So I won't try. Simon Tyrrell, the writer of this episode, however, is clearly a man who knows a flush from a full house.

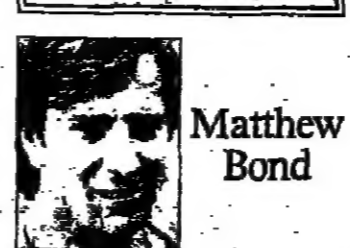
The body was that of a professional gambler, who had been run over in the early hours of the morning as he made his way back from "a spidery". "What's a spidery?" a character obligingly asked, some 90 seconds after I had wondered exactly the same. "It's an illegal gambling club," said

Beech, "with a two-grand fine. Thank you."

My education continued. I learnt that the King of Hearts is the suicidal king (have a look at his sword the next time you're playing patience) and that two aces and two eights were the "dead man's hand" of the title. Quite why, I wasn't certain, but I'm sure it will come in useful anyway.

But, just as it was in danger of becoming a little too technical, a little too elaborate... Snap! No, snap's not the right word either but you know what I mean. The plot had been well and truly shuffled. Turned out that our pro poker player had not been murdered at all, but had been run over as a result of an imprudent decision to combine chess and poker. The episode, however, another quick look at the engagement ring he had just bought. It was an example of one of the great

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Sun Hill truths—that life is often a good deal less complicated than it initially seems.

We left Beech reflecting on that, as a confession turned to bluff. "You thought I had one sort of hand," he said. "I had another. I was a gambler, who had means and motive but nothing else. I just let you believe it." Beech looked like a man in need of a soothing game of clock patience.

Oh yes, the second reason I don't normally write about *The Bill*: My mother is one of its three producers and last night's was one of hers. Sorry, just the way fate deals 'em sometimes.

Still with me? Good, because Lynne Truss is back next week, so it won't happen again for ages. Let us move on and consider Tracks (BBC2), a programme that despite its title has nothing to do with the Olympic Games and everything to do with the British countryside.

But it is far from the haven of rural tranquillity you might imagine or even hope for. Instead, it belies along with lots of music, lots of graphics and lots of people trying to show you how to climb a Scottish mountain in less than five minutes. The only respite comes with the animated wildlife nature notes by the Rev Rupert Greene. Last night his chosen theme was water meadows—and very interesting they were, too.

Part of Mr Greene's appeal is that while he may only be a cartoon he has the considerable saving grace of being an amateur naturalist, a truly Cornish countryman. By contrast, the real people that surround him are too fervent for my liking, a little too anxious to show off their thoroughly researched expertise.

So, with presenter Lindsay Cannan providing the introductions, we met Ray Mears, the "wilderness expert" who had 101 ideas for things to do with fungi. A 102nd sprang to mind, but Mears looked like the sort of man who had a penknife attachment for just that. We also met two people who appeared to have found birdwatching too exciting. One had taken up feather collecting, the other, dragonfly spotting. Nick Fisher described the latter pastime as "sexy" three times in five minutes. I did not believe him.

Energy and enthusiasm the programme has in admirable abundance, but it is playing a dangerous game by portraying the countryside as a place reserved for an elitist bunch of whispering, cagoule-wearing, know-all. What's wrong with just enjoying it?

Finally, Genderquake (Channel 4), which came to an end last night having never quite recovered from the fact that if you are going to go round asking difficult questions such as "what is really happening in British industry?" just about the last person you would want answering them is former *East-Enders* star, Susan Tully—or any actor, come to that. Apparently the answer is "diversity, co-operation, feminism". Which just goes to show that if you ask an actor a silly question... you'll get a silly answer.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC2

6.00am Business Breakfast (16851)
7.00am Olympic Breakfast. The overnight action featuring Richard Phelps in the revamped modern pentathlon, which concluded last night. Plus the quarter-finals of the men's tennis, the badminton mixed doubles semi-finals, volleyball and hockey, including 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 news (s) (47122)

9.00am News (Cesfax) (4686493)
9.05am Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights of the overnight action. Includes the gymnastics gala, yachting, badminton, football, hockey and boxing (s) (4686764)

12.35pm Neighbours. Lou kisses goodbye to a fortune and Michael tells her some home truths (Cesfax) (s) (4648219)

1.00pm News & Weather (Cesfax) (57509)

1.30pm Regional News (12067219)

1.40pm Olympic Grandstand. Coverage of the first round of the 200m and the opening of the decathlon. There are also women's singles semi-finals in tennis, badminton and basketball (s) (46476035)

5.35pm Neighbours (r) (Cesfax) (s) (597677)

6.00pm News & Weather (Cesfax) (219)

6.30pm Regional News (569)

7.00pm The Essential Olympics. Chris Boardman and Max Scrandi compete in the gruelling 200km cycle road race. Plus live tennis, quarter-final boxing, a review of the day's athletics including the 200m and a look ahead to the 400m hurdles final (Cesfax) (s) (78764)

8.30pm Holidays Out. A new series presented by Kirsty Young and Ben Sherwood looking at ideas for things to do in Britain during the summer (Cesfax) (s) (8344)

9.00pm News, Regional News, Weather (Cesfax) (57509)

9.30pm Inside Story: The Lady Gums (Cesfax) (s) (440144)

10.25pm Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces the latest action. Athletics: 10.45 Women's 100m hurdles semi-finals 11.15 Men's 200m second round. Featuring John Regis and Linford Christie 11.35 Women's triple jump final. Britain has high hopes of Ashia Hansen making this final 12.15 Men's 400m hurdles semi-final 12.30 Men's 100m semi-final 12.40 Women's 400m hurdles final. 1.00 Men's 3000m steeplechase semi-finals 1.50 Men's 800m final 2.10 Women's 100m hurdles final. 2.20 Yachting/Boxing 2.55 Athletics, featuring the decathlon and the men's 5000m 3.10 Athletics, badminton, table tennis, diving and volleyball (s) (83321035)

4.25pm Miss-Talkies. Jon Pliman demonstrates that it can go wrong if it goes wrong, with the aid of the BBC archives (s) (42710082)

4.40pm FILM: Silver Lode (1954). On the morning of his wedding, four men calling themselves marshals ride into town accusing the groom of committing a murder in the State of California. When his so-called friends refuse to help him, our hero is forced to prove his innocence and reveal the marshals' lies in a climactic gunfight. With John Payne, Dan Duryea and Elizabeth Selt. Directed by Allan Dwan (1954/57)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusComes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusComes numbers. They allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusComes for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

CHOICE

Survival Special: The Tigers Next Door (ITV, 8.00pm)

The safest way to go tiger-spotting is on the back of an elephant. One of the central sequences in this documentary from central India is a noisy confrontation between an elephant and the tiger cub which is trying to play with its tail. The elephant is not inclined to stand any nonsense. Ashish Chandra, the cameraman responsible for this film, also uses an elephant to get in close. The tiger footage is as magnificent as it is often poignant. An old and injured animal nearing the end of its life is a forlorn sight. But Chandra also explores the wider story of how India is trying to square the protection of rapidly declining species with the needs of poor villagers to scrape a living. The battleground is the forest, home to the tiger (and much other wildlife) but an essential source of wood for fuel.

Short Stories: Downward Nobility (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

The idea is so good that the film can hardly fail. And nor, thanks to skilfully tongue-in-cheek work by director, Dominic Allen, does it. His subjects are three members of the upper segment of society who have dropped out. The most extreme kicker over of the traces is Sophie Buchanan Watt, who is related to the Duke of Hamilton. For reasons not entirely clear she works as an exotic dancer at night clubs in New York. The decision of John Wrath, the son of a judge, to shave off his hair and play in a band is easily explained. He did not want to do what was expected of somebody of his background. Tony Hamilton, the grandson of a baronet, runs a pub and loves racing power boats against aristocrats who regard him as a job. Surprisingly, perhaps, the parents of the trio tend to be more supportive than appalled.

Inside Story: The Lady Gums (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Shirley, Amanda, Fiona and Barbara like nothing better than to head for a country estate and point their guns at a hapless pheasant. As it is still unusual for women to join men at a shoot, the director Carrie Britton has got herself a cracking subject. "She still behaves like a bit of a madam," says Amanda's husband, Ralph, adding that she will get more respect if she acts like a man. Amanda's riposte is not recorded. But Britton is not content just to follow a battle of the sexes. Her film is a revealing portrait of the landed gentry at play, pursuing a hobby that can cost them up to £30,000 a year while the beaters, whose job it is to drive the birds towards the stuns, are paid a mere £15 for a six-hour day. What tells Shirley and the other lady guns is that a Labour Government will make their sport illegal. Tony Blair will find no recruits here.

Double Exposure: A Relative Stranger (BBC2, 11.15pm)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (1909073) 9.25 Highway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (s) (Teletext) (s) (8270870) 9.50 Hope and Gloria (7745764)

10.20 News (Teletext) (8122306)

10.30 FILM: Turn Back the Clock (1989). Fantasy drama starring Connie Sellecca. Directed by Larry Elikann (88730035)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2954967)

12.30



RACING 37

St Mawes makes
mark at
Glorious Goodwood

WEDNESDAY JULY 31 1996

Tendon problem may force Briton's glorious career to premature end at Atlanta

Injured Gunnell considers retirement

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTA

SALLY GUNNELL, Britain's most cherished athlete, for her successes, homeliness and always cheerful demeanour, admitted yesterday that she may have reached the end of her glorious career.

"I will not be making any decisions about whether to carry on running at the moment," Gunnell said, recognising that retirement would be the alternative preferred to another operation and long journey back through rehabilitation to fitness, should it come to that choice.

For the second time in three races, Gunnell had to be

grand prix on July 3. Ironically — cruelly — it was at the same flight that she pulled up again. Knocked off balance at the fourth hurdle, she suffered the same shooting pain at the sixth hurdle that she had felt in Lausanne and stopped before she reached the seventh.

This was no way to celebrate her thirtieth birthday. In the deep of winter, she had been looking forward to this night as a way to toast her departure from her twenties and forget the trauma of 1995. Last year, with an injury to her right foot similar to that which she has now, she had been unable to defend her world title and saw her world record go on the same evening as she watched from a BBC commentary box.

The American pair, Kim Batten — who took her world title and world record 12 months ago — and Tonya Buford-Bailey have ruled the event and Gunnell went into Atlanta with the odds stacked heavily against her. The two United States athletes are among the favourites here.

This time, it is her left foot. She will have a scan today and then discuss the implications of that with medical experts. Gunnell said after a scan of the injury four weeks ago that she would have retired had it required another operation. She would, she said, not have wanted to spend another full year working her way back to fitness. She and her husband, Jon Biggs, want to start a family.

helped from the track on Monday evening, when injury took its toll again, on this most important of occasions. Here to defend the Olympic 400 metres hurdles championship that she had won in Barcelona four years earlier, with a technique as close to perfection as the event has seen, she left the stage not carrying the Union flag in a lap of celebration but in the wheelchair that took her to the medical room.

It was a recurrence of the tendon injury to her left foot, though it had not been given a reasonable time to heal, that brought her to an abrupt halt at the seventh flight of ten hurdles in the Lausanne

. It had, seemed on Sunday, when she came through the first round, that the optimism expressed by Dr Roland Biedert, the Swiss doctor who treats Gunnell, was justified. He had said that she had a good chance of competing in Atlanta and lasting the distance. "It may be slightly worse than that one [injury], I do not know," Gunnell said yesterday.

"All my emotions are mixed. I am obviously disappointed about losing the title in such circumstances, but at least I went out and gave it a go. I just want to be on my own for a while and get away from



A distraught Gunnell collapses in pain on the track in Atlanta during her fateful semi-final of the 400 metres hurdles, with the defence of her Olympic title in tatters

everything that has happened. I felt the foot during the warm-ups. It was sore but I tried to ignore it." Olympic champions are made of such resolve.

"I hit the fourth hurdle and that knocked me off balance almost into the next lane. I then rotated on the foot and that is what caused the problem. There is no way I could have gone on."

Speaking on behalf of the British Athletic Federation, Tony Ward said: "We are all sad for Sally. She is a great competitor and the least she deserved was to defend her title in the final. It is

typical of the Olympics. When you come to these Games, you know there will be drama and pathos. Unfortunately, Sally has been a victim this time. We are all desperately disappointed for her."

"One minute we are up with Roger Black's silver medal in the 400 metres; then, suddenly, we are plunged into despair. But the mood of the team has to remain upbeat. There is still a lot to aim for."

It is to be hoped that more despair is not on the way. Kelly Holmes, who was fourth in the 800 metres on Sunday, carrying a leg injury, is con-

sidering changing her luck in the 1,500 metres starting today. "I might as well run the 1,500 metres because it looks as if this is the end of the season for me anyway," Holmes said.

Last year, with Gunnell injured, Holmes took on the role of the being the leading British woman athlete, winning a silver medal in the 1,500 metres at the world championships and a bronze in the 800 metres. She was due to have an X-ray examination yesterday to determine the extent of the damage to her lower left leg. It is feared she may have a stress fracture.

Second Russian fails drug test in Atlanta

THE expulsion from the Centennial Olympic Games of Nina Zhivanevskaya, the backstroke swimmer from Russia, yesterday took to four the number of those who have tested positive for the banned stimulant, Bromanian, in Atlanta (Craig Lord writes).

New rules brought in by Fina, swimming's international governing body, in February mean that Zhivanevskaya's results from the Olympic Games and the European championships, at Vienna last year, will be cancelled. She was third in the 100 metres backstroke at Vienna.

announced on Sunday as having tested positive for Bromanian, an agent that may be used as a masking agent for other substances, were Andrei Korneyev, of Russia — whose bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke will now go to Nick Gillingham, of Great Britain — Zafar Gulyov, a Russian Greco-Roman wrestler who won the bronze medal in the 49kg class, and Rita Raznaite, a sprint cyclist from Lithuania. The Lithuanian cycling team doctor and coach have also been excluded from the Games and all qualifying Olympic events until Sydney 2000.

Atherton rewarded at the death

BY PAT GIBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss; Lancashire beat Derbyshire by two runs)

MICHAEL ATHERTON was not taking any chances this time. Twenty-four hours after he had failed to save the England cricket team from the rampaging Pakistanis, by leaving the task to lesser men, he made sure that Lancashire's Old Trafford stronghold did not fall to the invaders from across the Pennine border by doing the job himself.

Without Atherton's utterly dedicated 115, chiselled out in 58 overs, Lancashire would have surrendered their proud, unbeaten home record in knockout competitions, stretching back over nine seasons and 15 matches, as well as their hope of adding the NatWest Trophy to the Benson and Hedges Cup.

They knew that Derbyshire were dangerous opponents in this quarter-final. They were the last side to beat them in a knockout match in Lancashire, albeit at Liverpool in 1988; they had beaten them again in the 1993 Benson and

Hedges Cup final; and they had just overcome them in both the championship and the Sunday league at Old Trafford. And they almost did it again. In the end, Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, needed to hit a four off the final ball from Chapple to level the scores and give his side victory by virtue of the fact that they scored four more runs off the first 30 overs.

He could manage only two and, although Jones had the consolation of completing a magnificent century, Lancashire had won a knockout game off the last ball for the third time this season.

Atherton invariably sets out his stall to bat through the innings and that is just what Lancashire needed on a slow, turning pitch where strokeplay was never easy.

There were only four boundaries in his first 50, which came from 122 balls, and none at all in his second, although that took him only 55 balls. It was testimony to the mental toughness and physical endurance of a man who had just gone through all kinds of agonies in a five-day Test that, when he was finally caught at long-on, he had batted for 3½ hours, faced 175 balls and struck only six fours.

Gallian had shared in a partnership of 57 in 20 overs but Crawley and Fairbrother failed against some tight Derbyshire bowling and the acceleration came from Lloyd, who made 61 out of 101 for the fourth wicket off only 59 balls with a six and seven fours.

Barnett took five of the last six wickets to fall for 32, as Lancashire thrashed 80 off the last ten overs, and then seemed to have given Derbyshire the platform for victory when he and Cork put on 92 for the first wicket.

Both were out in the first over after tea, however, and once they had gone it was a question of whether Jones, still one of the best one-day batsmen in the world, could conjure victory on a pitch reviving memories of Jim Laker's 19 wickets here 40 years ago almost to the day. He could not have got much closer and, if Fairbrother had not pulled off a miraculous stop on the long-on boundary to turn what looked like being a six into a single in the penultimate over, he would have won a famous victory.

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

LANCASHIRE		DERBYSHIRE	
J.R. Gallian c Cork b Dean	27	K.J. Barnett c Fairbrother b Martin	36
M.A. Atherton c O'Connor b Dean	115	D.G. Cook not out	59
J.P. Crawley c Jackson b Wells	9	D.M. Jones not out	100
N.H. Fairbrother c Dean b Vandevoort	11	C.J. Adams b Yates	13
G.D. Lloyd c Cork b Barnett	61	G.D. Gorman c Lloyd b Martin	15
M. Woodcock c Jones b Barnett	17	P.A.J. DeFreitas c Lloyd b Martin	17
T.W. Root c Khan b Barnett	18	M. Vandevoort b Vandevoort	15
I.D. Austin c Jones b Barnett	0	G.A. Khan c Vandevoort b Chapple	15
G. Chapple b b Barnett	0	C.M. Wells b Chapple	3
G. Yates not out	2	M.J. Vandevoort not out	3
P.J. Martin not out	2	K.J. Doorn not out	0
Extras (b 4, w 3, nb 14)	21	Extras (b 7, w 3)	10
Total (8 wickets, 60 overs)	289	Total (8 wickets, 60 overs)	289
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-88, 3-109, 4-116, 5-234, 6-267, 7-273, 8-273, 9-273		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-103, 3-147, 4-178, 5-212, 6-238, 7-272, 8-281, 9-286	
BOWLING: Cork 12-0-61-0; DeFreitas 12-2-37-0; Wells 12-0-40-1; Dean 11-0-76-2; Vandevoort 10-0-29-1; Barnett 6-1-32-3; Martin 6-1-32-3		BOWLING: Austin 12-2-56-0; Martin 12-2-30-2; Yates 12-1-42-2; Chapple 12-0-43-2; Vandevoort 12-0-48-1	
Man-of-the-match: M.A. Atherton		Umpires: G. Shepp and R.A. White	

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Shearer misses out on greater riches

BY JASON NISSE

THE desire to stay in England, and an ill-considered decision to sign a new four-year contract for Blackburn Rovers last year, look like costing Alan Shearer at least £10 million.

Despite becoming the world's most expensive footballer with his £15 million move to Newcastle United, and signing a deal worth £7.5 million over five years, Shearer has missed an opportunity to revolutionise the way footballers are paid in England.

"The system in England is going to go the same way as the US, with players being free agents and able to negotiate their own deals," Glen Cooper, a merchant banker who has advised Manchester United and one of the bidders for Leeds United, said.

Of the transfer fee paid by Newcastle,

more than £1 million will go to Shearer, who has also agreed a five-year contract at a minimum of £1.5 million a year. However attractive this appears, however, others, like Ryan Giggs or Steve McManaman, are likely to do even better should they decide to move clubs.

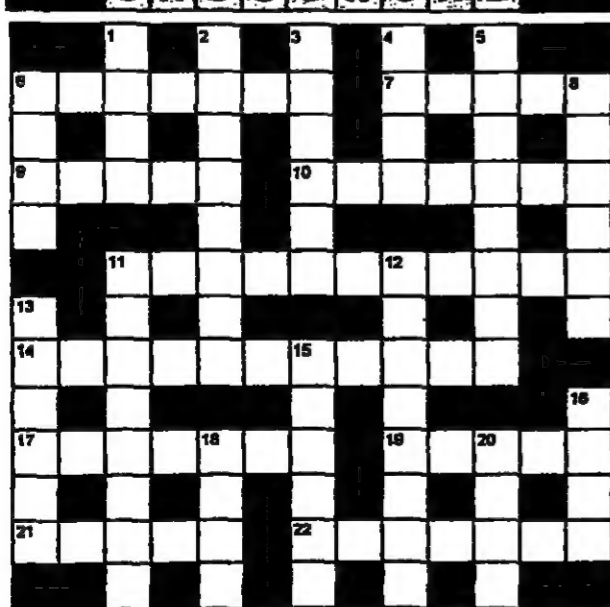
Following the European Court's ruling in the Bosman case, any footballer is free to move at the end of his contract on a free transfer. So far this has been interpreted as only covering transfers between countries, which is why Gianluca Vialli joined Chelsea from Juventus for nothing.

Legal experts say the Bosman ruling should mean the end of transfer fees for any out of contract players in England. "Some European countries have already scrapped transfer fees between clubs," Maurice Watkins, legal advisor to Manchester United, said.

All it needs is for a player to take the matter to court for the Football Association's system to be destroyed. "When a player does have the incentive to challenge the tribunal system, I have little doubt the courts will throw it out," Gary Assin, of Travers Smith Brathwaite, the City lawyers, said.

Shearer would have had just such an incentive — had he not signed a new contract last year, albeit with a clause saying his agent, Tony Stephens, could negotiate personal terms with any club that offered in excess of £10 million for him. His original deal, when Blackburn bought him for £3.3 million from Southampton, was for four years, which would have run out by now. Had he stuck to it, Shearer could have moved to Juventus or Barcelona on a free transfer and pocket a signing-on fee, which could have exceeded £10 million.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 848

ACROSS

- 6 (Specious) allure (7)
- 7 Not silently; sounds like let (5)
- 9 Country south of Egypt (5)
- 10 — Jones (Raiders of the Lost Ark) (7)
- 11 Empty boasting (11)
- 14 Brass backs (5-6)
- 17 Least amount (7)
- 19 The Mongols' was Golden (5)
- 21 Comfortable (ballet) (5)
- 22 Hardest, most valuable, carbon form (7)

DOWN

- 1 (Musical) group; ring (4)
- 2 Four or six runs (9)
- 3 Having a go; income (6)
- 4 Domestic help (4)
- 5 Rule by king (8)
- 6 A rip (4)
- 8 Be interminable (4,2); monster (6)
- 11 Plant scientist (9)
- 12 One from The Hague (8)
- 13 Aphoristic (6)
- 15 A cure (6)
- 16 Curvy, flex (4)
- 18 In county, capital Castellar (4)
- 20 Tumult (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 847

ACROSS: 5 Transparency 8 Beagle 9 Square 10 Lick 12 Deficit 14 Scruple 15 Drag 17 Carmel 18 Relent 20 General staff

DOWN: 1 Sleepchase 2 Fang 3 Banisher 4 Peculiar 6 Shed 7 Carving knife 11 Crumpled 13 Flyer 16 Iris 19 Lost

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 845

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ACROSS: 1 Crow 3 Epiphany 8 Allowed 10 Refer 11 Pandora's box 13 Orange 15 Studio 17 Clear the air 20 Upend 21 Garland 22 Anecdote 23 Weir

DOWN: 1 Champion 2 All-in 4 Pedlar 5 Pork butcher 6 Affixed 7 Yard 9 Wrong-headed 12 Joyrider 14 Ancient 16 Frigate 18 Adage 19 Pupa

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